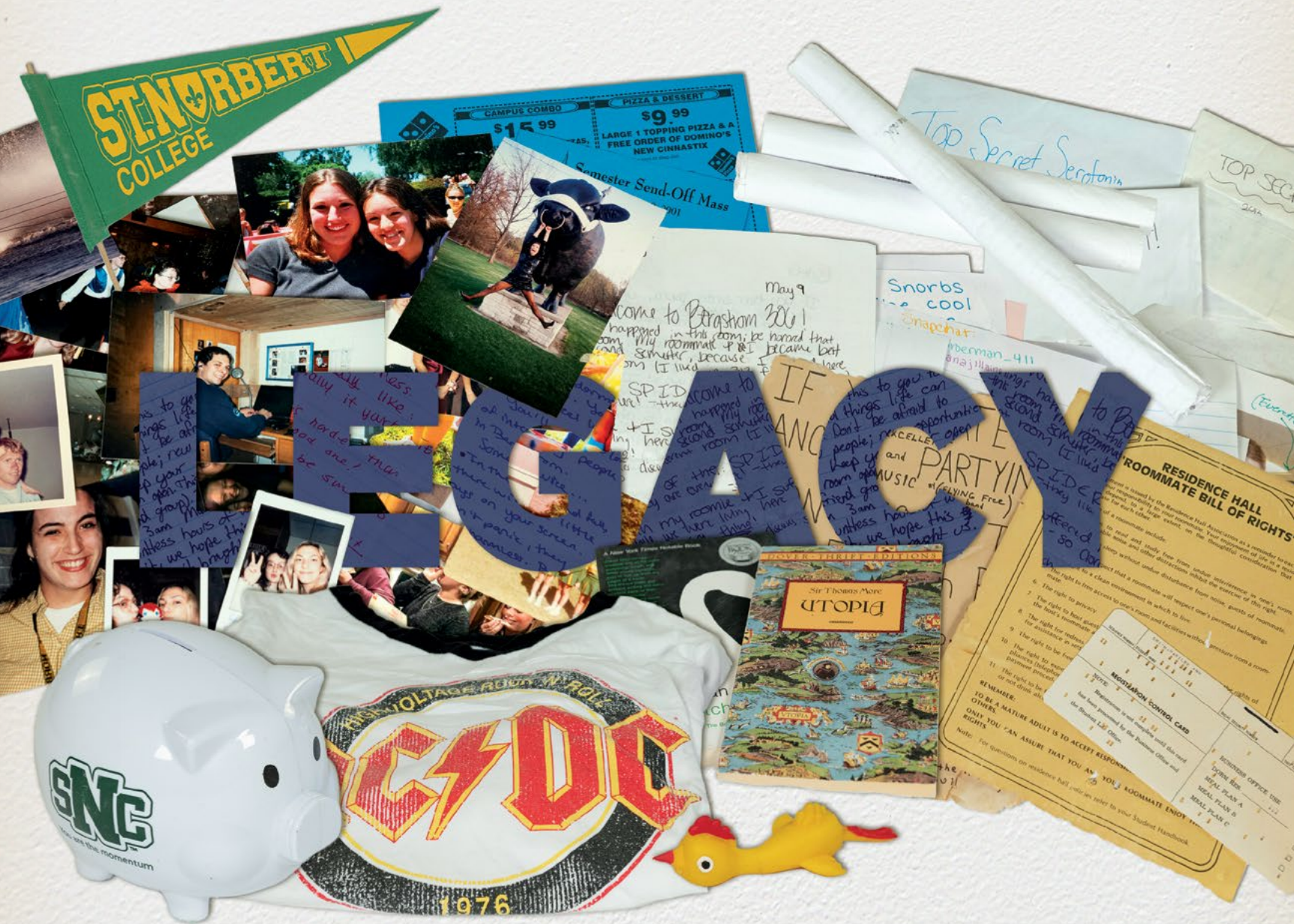


# St. Norbert

College Magazine | Fall/Winter 2022



## Gifted From Above

A low-budget legacy, with love from one class to the next





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ST. NORBERT COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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Vol. 54, No. 3, Fall/Winter 2022



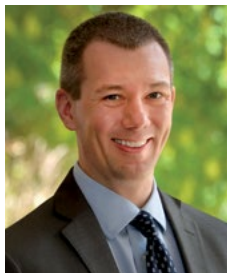
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“This small statue beautifully speaks to vocation and specifically, to me as a Catholic woman, to the two sides of what a good human life looks like. ... Together, these two women form a whole picture of what we’re called to do.” – **Bridget Burke Ravizza** (Theology & RS)



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Those familiar “White Robes” on campus continue to provide a true ministry of presence. On campus for 2022-23, some new Norbertine faces as well as familiar names in new positions.



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As manager of highway planning for the Twin Cities, **Steve Peterson '04** applies SNC lessons on intersectionality daily, and in very concrete fashion.

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## Cover Story



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## Gifted From Above

When a demolition crew marched into Bergstrom Hall this past summer, they had no idea what lay in store. But as they began dismantling the res-hall ceilings as part of a major renovation, they discovered nearly every single one contained an assortment of gifts.

**On our cover:** Roommates stowed handwritten letters, words of advice and an endearing collection of random objects above their ceiling tiles – a kind of low-budget legacy for future residents of their rooms.



## Page 20

### Fund of Knowledge

A magnanimous total of five National Science Foundation grants are among multiple sources currently financing cutting-edge research at St. Norbert.



## Page 24

### Vocation Is an Itinerary of Hope

There is no vacation from your vocation. The calling to do something life-affirming, something for the greater good, only deepens with time. And new callings, too, may appear unannounced even into the later years of life.

## Online

A sampling of related content available at [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine).



**In doggy devotion:** Judging from the number of “awww’s,” the pause for puppies was doing its work as students petted away any worries and stress earlier this semester (**page 4**). Our photographer **Thomas Janssen** captured the moment.



**In performance:** As a new symphony by **John Henneken** (Music) enjoys its world premiere (**page 8**), it’s our privilege to share a recording of the composer’s earlier work, “Symphony for the Garden City.”



**In training:** Our videography team captured the pre-season experience that brought Green Knight footballers back to campus three weeks ahead of the start of classes (**page 12**).



**In shared experience:** **Becky Lahti '00** (Emmaus Center) was in the first class that **Paul Wadell** (Theology & RS) taught at SNC (**page 24**). A few years on, their vocational journeys have stayed entwined.



**In honor:** We celebrate and draw inspiration from the storied lives of the recipients of this year’s Alumni Awards (**page 33**).



**In generation after generation:** Two new roommates in Mad-Lor were each part of the St. Norbert family long before they arrived as members of the Class of 2026 (**page 35**).

Keep an eye open throughout this edition for more links to content on the web. Follow us on your favorite social media channel, too. Just search for **St. Norbert College**.











### **Pause for P.A.W.S.**

Judging from the number of “awww’s,” the pause for puppies was doing its work as students petted away any worries and stress earlier this semester. Our photographer **Thomas Janssen** captured the moment. Doggie visitors from Green Bay Kennel Club are regulars on campus for these P.A.W.S. events, sponsored jointly by Counseling & Psychological Services and Career & Professional Development.



More photos are in our gallery of pups at [snc.edu/magazine](https://snc.edu/magazine).



## The day is young



**President Tom Kunkel** returns to campus this year in an interim presidential role. Kunkel retired as president emeritus in 2017 after a storied nine years as the seventh president of St. Norbert College.



A national search for the ninth president of St. Norbert College launched at the end of September. The St. Norbert College Board of Trustees has appointed **Sandy Odorzynski** (Economics, Emeritus) and **Mike Foley '84**, trustee, to co-chair the search process.

It had been five full years since the movers hauled the last of our possessions from that special home overlooking the Fox, closed up their van and pointed it south. Yet as soon as I unlocked the front door and stepped into that small, familiar foyer, the years melted away.

Soon enough, the memories were rushing back. Christmas parties marked by good cheer and bad host costumes. Friends on the back patio for late-summer drinks. Enrollment events with prospective students and their parents packed into every nook and cranny. I remember one intrepid young fellow in particular, whom I met as he emerged from my basement, having been quite enamored of the man-cave he'd found down there.

"Ready to commit to St. Norbert College?" I asked, smiling.

He thought a moment. "I will if I can live in your basement."

Now *I* thought a moment. "We can talk," I said at last. I mean, we *are* an enrollment-driven college.

Then there's the best memory of all, that perfect fall Saturday in 2010 when the entire first floor of the house was teeming with bridesmaids, all getting their final hair and makeup adjustments before 75 percent of our daughters were married in a triple wedding at Old St. Joe's. In my mind I am back there again, a lone tuxedo in a cloud of taffeta and lace, wearing a smile you couldn't pry off my face with a crowbar.

When you return to a place that's meant so much to you, especially after five years, it's easy to get swept up in memories.

But then I remind myself that I'm back here to do a job, and that's not about yesterday. That's about tomorrow.

I knew back in 2017, when I handed over SNC's keys to Brian Bruess, that the institution we both love would be well cared for – and it definitely has been.

On Brian's watch, SNC not only came through the pandemic as strong as before but it has continued to flourish. He built the college's endowment to record levels, further diversified the student body and faculty, and steered St. Norbert to its highest-ever rankings among national liberal arts colleges – and Catholic

colleges in particular.

He also encouraged the college to become even more aggressive in partnering with the National Science Foundation to secure support for research that is much more typical of a major research university than a residential liberal arts college. Such partnerships not only create important new knowledge but they provide invaluable research collaborations for SNC students – the kind of hands-on experience that leads to great jobs and entry into the best graduate schools. (You can read more about these research grants on page 20.)

As you know, Brian is now tackling new challenges, this time at the helm of St. Benedict's College and St. John's University in Minnesota, and even as we celebrate his tenure we are well along in our search to find his replacement.

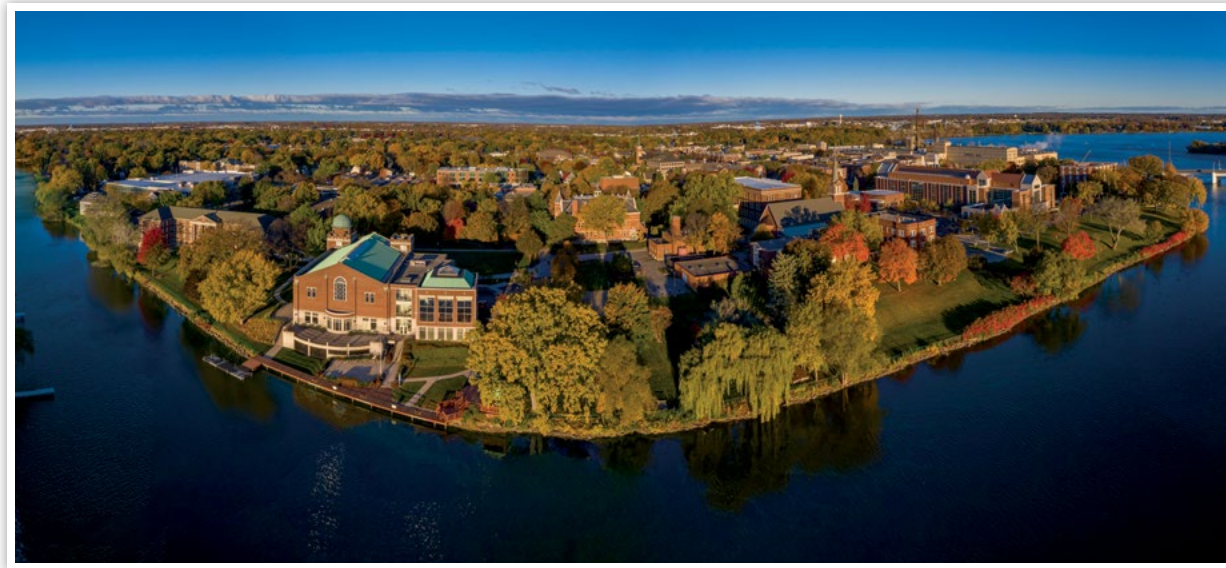
In the meantime, we've welcomed to campus another highly accomplished freshman class, and everyone – not least the interim president – is relieved that, so far, everything about the fall '22 semester feels like the pre-Covid "normal" we've all longed for. Not that we're taking anything for granted – we still know where those masks are, should we suddenly need them – but you can definitely detect the fresh bounce in people's steps, and the joy they are taking in even everyday occurrences. That cup of coffee with a friend. The impromptu Frisbee games on the Campus Center quad.

In fact, I'm smiling as I write this, because we've just put to bed another successful SNC Day. Once again, thousands of visitors swarmed our beautiful campus. And, as always, it was especially heartwarming to see the unadulterated glee in the many youngsters as they got their faces painted, lobbed water balloons at siblings, giddily bounced on oversized inflatables and coated their faces in ice cream.

The sight of it sparked more happy memories, of course, not to mention a certain satisfaction in knowing that any number of the young children whom we entertained at the first SNC Day, back in 2009, are now actually SNC students.

But time to put the memory machine on Pause. There's work to do.





## Equity cohort enhances SNC initiatives

St. Norbert has joined an inaugural, grant-funded cohort of schools invited to implement a new Sexual Assault Prevention & Campus Equity (SPACE) toolkit.

This mission-aligned project is sponsored by the authors of “Sexual Citizens,” named one of NPR’s best books of 2020. The groundbreaking study of sex, power and assault draws on interviews with 150 Columbia and Barnard students, revealing the social ecosystem that makes sexual assault a predictable element of life on many college campuses.

The SPACE project provides campuses with a new approach to sexual violence prevention – one grounded in a broad commitment to equity. It’s just one of a slew of initiatives on campuses across the country to raise awareness of, and develop prevention programming around, sex and gender-based violence. And, at St. Norbert, the toolkit supports a comprehensive community-partnership effort funded with help from the U.S. Department of Justice to the initial tune of \$300,000 – a commitment that was just renewed, with a further \$269,921 forthcoming. SNC is currently one of only two schools in Wisconsin which received continuation funding for this Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant.

As Title IX – the landmark law guaranteeing equal access to education – turns 50, the goals of this initiative fit seamlessly with SNC’s commitment to

being a part of the solution to gender-based violence. The college is especially interested in exploring the nexus between policy response and prevention outreach, say **President Tom Kunkel** and **Joe Webb** (Student Affairs). “We are excited about the potential to bring about community-based change at the campus policy level,” they shared in a joint statement supporting the cohort application. “In all ways, St. Norbert College is committed to supporting a learning and working environment that protects the sacred dignity of the human person and fosters the mutual respect necessary for *communio* to flourish.”

The recent initiative is reflected across the curriculum, too. Among many classroom-based approaches to themes of Catholic social teaching like personal responsibility and human dignity, SNC students in one course will be reading “Sexual Citizens” in tandem with a group of faculty and staff colleagues. **Raquel Lopez** (Psychology), who teaches PSYC 215: Human Sexuality – a course that includes a focus on consent – says she is seeing a significant increase in the number of male students enrolled in the class. And a 2021 research project, part of ENG/WMGS 310 Race & Sex in Contemporary U.S. Texts taught by **AnaMaria Seglie Clawson** (English, Women’s & Gender Studies), led to refinements to sex/gender-based violence training for SNC’s athletics teams.

### Also on campus



■ Plans are in development for an SNC Symposium on Gender-Based Violence during the spring semester.

■ A new survivor-advocate role supported by \$500 scholarships per semester has been created in response to a proposal developed by students. SNC’s first peer advocates are **Cynthia Torres ’24**, **Haley Crowley ’23** and **Madison Lucas ’24**.

■ A new Safe Space area, located on the garden level of the Alumni House on the college campus, allows room for students, faculty, staff and alumni to share and discuss thoughts or stories and to confide in others about the effect of gender-based violence in their lives. Other sanctuaries for those in need include safe spaces in the Title IX office, at the Campus Center and at the De Pere Police Department.



## SNC advances its top 10 tenure

St. Norbert maintains its place among the nation's top Catholic liberal arts colleges in U.S. News & World Report's newly released 2022-23 rankings. The college, which broke into the top 10 in 2012, is tied for seventh place this year with St. Anselm College.

Named among "America's Best National Liberal Arts Colleges," the college has moved steadily up the rankings since 2009 when it was first designated as a "national" liberal arts college by U.S. News. This year sees a further jump, up six spots. The college is ranked at no. 111 overall – its highest outcome ever since it moved to the "national" list – and at no. 44 for social mobility.

Surveys of counterpart institutions' levels of awareness contribute in significant measure to these rankings, so as a school's national reputation increases, its ranking may lag by a decade or more.

## First day of 13th grade



On the first day of classes each year, parent relations makes sure there is a photographer by the iconic arch on Third Street to take back-to-school photos for any student who wishes it. It's been a wildly popular event since 2019 – especially with St. Norbert parents. Many of them acquired that first-day habit with their children in pre-school days, and they see no reason to give up the tradition yet!



### Newly translated

Classics students **Megan Keyser '22** and **Halle Martin '22** were honored in front of **Bishop David Ricken** at an Old St. Joe's Mass for their work on the first translation of the 19th-century Latin document that officially validated the relics of the Holy Martyrs of Gorkum embedded in the church's altar. The official document, along with the new translation, is displayed in the church.

### Studied

"Budz Butter: An Entrepreneurial (Ad) venture Into the World of CBD" – a case study by **Joy Pahl** (IBLAS) with Andrew Stevens of University of Wisconsin-Madison – has been awarded the Journal of Case Studies 2022 Best Case Award. (Budz Butter owner is **Levi Budz '15**, who studied under Pahl as an undergrad.)

### Inclusive

The Catholic Theological Society of America has bestowed its Catherine Mowry LaCugna Award for new scholars on **Craig Ford** (Theology & RS) for his essay, "Our Galileo Affair," on LGBTQ issues in the Church. The Mowry LaCugna Award recognizes the best academic essay

in the field of theology within the Roman Catholic tradition.

Ford was a keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the American Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities, where he led a session for senior diversity officers.

### Funded

The Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada has accepted a research proposal into the impact of temporary workers on firm performers by **Zhuoyi (Zoe) Zhao** (Accounting) and co-authors Joanna Andrejkow of Wilfrid Laurier University and Kevin Veenstra of McMaster University. SSHRC funding of CA\$73,606 (\$59,808) will support the project through 2024.

### Returning

"Symphony for the Great Return" by **John Henneken** (Music) had its world premiere in Colorado this October. "The Great Return" is a performance that celebrates the nation coming through the turbulent times of COVID," says Elliot Moore, conductor and music director of the Longmont Symphony Orchestra, which presented the new work as part of its own return to in-person programming.

St. Norbert College Magazine online is privileged to share a recording of the composer's first symphony, "Symphony for the Garden City," which was a finalist in the 2019 American Prize competition.

### Representing

**Alli Reed** (Study Abroad) was selected to join the Education in Ireland site visit to five Irish universities this fall. The visit, for a select group only of U.S. study-abroad professionals, is sponsored by the Irish government.

### Restorative

At the 10th annual Wisconsin Trout Stream Restoration Workshop in August, **Nelson Ham** (Geology) presented on geologic controls on northeastern Wisconsin trout streams.

### Podcasting

**Valerie Kretz** (Communication

& Media Studies) was a guest on The Franklin Institute's "So Curious!" video podcast series. The project traces "the greatest innovations in history from the germ of an idea through the technology of tomorrow." Kretz appeared in the episode "Relationships in the Media."

### Winning

A paper on "The Changing Role of Theological Authority in Ockham's Razor" by **Eric Hagedorn** (Philosophy) has been selected as the winning essay of the 2022 Res Philosophica international essay contest.

### Developing

Diane Doberneck of Michigan State University, one of the country's leading experts in community-based research and engaged scholarship, conducted a workshop with SNC's 11 new faculty fellows for community-engaged scholarship as they got ready to launch their research projects this year. In this year's cohort are **Erinn Brooks** (Sociology), **Brandon Bauer** (Art), **Adam Brandt** and **Stephen Ferguson** (Biology), **Craig Ford** (Theology & RS), **Danielle Geerling** (Psychology), **Nick Mauro** (Physics), **Christina Miriris** (MLL), **Alexia Pedro Lopes** (Business) and **Jamie Waroff** (Music).



## Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship / Proud Heritage



### Montuvios montage

Among the SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship) fellows who presented their work in August was student artist **Bryan Salas** from Ecuador, who is studying abroad at SNC this year.

Salas focused his project on the Montuvios, his own ethnic community. In his research plan, Salas said: "I am going to create a portrait, through art representation, of our cultural traditions such as clothing, gastronomy and the most important festival, *Chigualo* [a celebration of the birth of

Jesus]. The purpose of this project is to celebrate our traditions and show how proud we can be if we know more about Montuvios' cultural traditions."

Salas, who is advised by **Katie Ries** (Art), worked on a montage inspired by those traditions. As well as presenting work at the SURF Final Presentation event, he has been preparing for a solo exhibition this semester in the ClubHouse Gallery on campus.

## Doing this well

“Will this be on the test?” “When am I ever going to use this?": questions that arise naturally from a student's desire to put effort towards things that will improve their lives. But, in a math class – especially when portrayed in popular media – they're questions that focus too narrowly on the immediate application of the math at hand. The truth is that math is far more than a problem on a test, far more than a tool to be used on the job.

Indeed, math is about more than numbers and signals. Math is about thinking well.

We *should* ask about purpose. We *should* question the value of the activities we engage in and the subjects we study. I hope that we also ask, “What are we doing here?”

I have more questions for my students: questions like, “What is the purpose of a liberal arts education?” For those students who realize they are attending a liberal arts college (and at first, not all do), there is some understanding that our intention is to become more well-rounded, to know a greater breadth of things. But it is not just this knowledge that is our goal; rather it is to learn to think in a variety of ways. I am glad that I get to teach math to music, English and communication majors, because math is the greatest tool I have to teach critical thinking. I am glad that my math majors get to take courses in composition and drawing. For their instructors, their own disciplines are their best vehicles for teaching critical thinking. Because of St. Norbert College's liberal arts tradition, our students learn to be better thinkers from a variety of perspectives.

I ask, “What do you think I [your math professor] expect you to remember from this class 20 years from now?” Answers vary. Depending on the course, some students will mention one formula or another, or some problem-solving process. Recently, a particularly clever student mentioned “relationships” between classmates, and with the professor. I liked this answer because it felt deeper and more meaningful than some equation that could be found with a quick web search. Mathematics, after all, is a study of relationships.

Occasionally, students expect that my class (or any math class) will teach them math that they will use every day of their lives. Maybe it will. Probably, it will not. Few of us encounter a quadratic equation fluttering into our backyard every evening. Few of

our careers see us differentiating rational functions daily. Even I do not do these things every day, and I am a professional mathematician. As I have told students, “If, 20 years from now, the thing you have gained from this course is a formula, then both you and I have done this [gesturing wildly to indicate all of our time at the college] wrong.”

So, what are we doing here (in this class, at St. Norbert College, within this lifetime)? This is a question we should continually grapple with, and the college experience provides a wonderful opportunity to probe for answers. For the time that you're a student in my class, I hope that we return to this question as we grow as thinkers and as humans.

In one of my courses, I teach about exponential functions. Except, I don't, sorta. I teach about poverty and high-interest payday loans. The traditional classroom applications of exponential functions are figuring out how much money you will have in your savings account in 10 years or estimating how many bacteria will be in a petri dish one hour from now. (Fun fact: They grow in roughly the same manner! Though, one much, much slower than the other.) But, what if we also discussed how savings accounts can persist generation over generation, creating wealth? Or, let's take that a step further and discuss how some folks in the United States were, for much of this country's history, not allowed to have savings in a bank gaining interest, and so they have been barred from the opportunity to accrue the generational wealth that others enjoy.

While we are talking about exponential functions, why shouldn't we learn about payday loans, whose cost of repayment also grows exponentially – and at monstrously high rates. We can study mathematical formulas for exponential growth and also have deep, meaningful conversations about how obviously impossible it must feel to repay a \$500 loan, two weeks later, at an interest rate of 338 percent.

We can study math and justice simultaneously. We can strengthen our brains, and use those brains to tackle society's major challenges. It is my hope that that is what we are doing here. Students, that is when you're going to be able to use this!

**Jonathan Dunbar joined the St. Norbert faculty in 2019. He enjoys the opportunity to teach the applications of math to issues of social justice – a current emphasis of MATH 123: Applications of Contemporary Mathematics.**





## Gallery / Can't Wait to Get Started

### Bright and early

A new Food Trucks & Fun event connected students whose programs bring them to campus well ahead of move-in. Whether RA, STAR student, FYE mentor or student staffer, it's never too early to grab a bite to eat with an old friend or to make a new one via a winning cornhole match-up.





## Reading right along

Eighty-eight percent of the children in an SNC tutoring program gained between one and 2.75 years of reading growth last year says **Emily Mitchell '23**. Mitchell developed the 2021-22 annual report for the initiative. St. Norbert's Village Project partners with Growing Resiliency, Inc. and Green Bay Area Public Schools' after-school program to provide tutoring for children who may not have access to services.

**Nancy Mathias** (Sturzl Center) notes, "We also saw many benefits to the tutors' own resiliency and skill development." Ninety-three percent of tutors reported an increase in their own growth mindset.

The program, already established at Green Bay's Nicolet Elementary, this year adds tutoring at a second site, St. Bernard Catholic.

## Immersive education



Language students, at SNC from Japanese universities, met American first-responders when they visited the De Pere Fire Department. Police, firefighters and paramedics introduced the Cultural Immersion class to the tools and tactics of their trades, and encouraged them to explore their vehicles. The students, here for their study-abroad experience at the college's English as a Second Language (ESL) Institute, even got to try on some turnout gear for size. ESL instructor **Corri Gossen** snapped the moment for **Akiho Homma** (above), visiting from Tsuru University.



SNC toppled UW-Stevens Point in a physical 21-14 win when the two teams met in September.

### Representing

SNC's athletics director **Cam Fuller** has been named to the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Committee.

Fuller represents Region VIII on the 10-person committee. He has extensive experience in managing events from his time in the Horizon League office prior to his arrival at St. Norbert, most notably serving as the tournament manager for the 2021 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship in Indianapolis.

### Coaching

New coaches bring high hopes for the development of Green Knight programs this year:

■ New head men's and women's swimming and diving coach **Ryan Goggans** joined the college in July. Goggans comes

from Ripon College where, during his time, the Red Hawks reset school records 58 times and posted eight individual Midwest Conference championships.

Goggans says: "The reputation that St. Norbert College has for its commitment to athletics and to the student-athlete experience are the biggest reasons I am excited to work here."

■ **Kaitlyn Denz '20** is the new head dance coach. Denz had experience choreographing game-day and sideline routines during her own time on the team. She takes on a program that is achieving success at a high level, as Grand National Champion at last season's DX Americup.

■ New head women's golf coach is **Beaux Myers '20**. Myers captained the men's golf team as a senior. A psychology major

at SNC, he has since completed a Master of Science degree from UW-Green Bay in sports, exercise and performance psychology.

■ **Ryan Petersen '09**, an assistant coach on the SNC staff 2012-15, has returned as new associate head coach for men's hockey. Petersen, who captained the Green Knights' first national championship team in 2008, spent the last five years as an assistant coach for the Green Bay Gamblers of the United States Hockey League. Meanwhile **Andy Brandt**, former associate head coach, moves on to the University of Wisconsin men's hockey program as assistant coach.

### Growing

For the first time ever, the total number of student-athletes has eclipsed 600. The

2021-22 figure stood at 612, comprising more than 30 percent of the student body.

### Bonding

SNC videography team **Tom Janssen** and **Mike Counter M.L.S '14** (Communications) captured the training-camp experience that brought Green Knight footballers back to campus three weeks ahead of the start of classes. Returning players take the lead, as **Isaac Sidon '22**, defensive end, told the crew: "We firmly believe: 'next man up.' So we're making sure they're ready to take over no matter what the situation. Coach is doing a good job of making sure we're comfortable and have a chemistry with everybody. It's very important that we take care of the young guys and get them ready for the future."



## Treasure / “Duet, Mary and Martha”

### **Bridget Burke Ravizza** **Theology & Religious Studies**

This small statue beautifully speaks to vocation and specifically, to me as a Catholic woman, to the two sides of what a good human life looks like. On the one side, Martha: She's got a basket, vegetables, and she's concerned with tasks that need to get done to take care of herself and others. On the other side, Mary: She's got a book in her hand, she's seeking knowledge, contemplation . . . This depiction shows a real balance. It doesn't show one vocation as superior to the other. Together, these two women form a whole picture of what we're called to do.

There's a beautiful spirit here in the Cassandra Voss Center and, in particular, in the space where this piece is set. It's a quiet corner, reserved for reflection. Mary, in the Biblical story, is inspirational as she sits at Jesus's feet and he accepts her there. It's a strong statement that women were called to discipleship as well as to the work of hospitality – one that really speaks, too, to the Norbertine idea about being contemplatives: contemplatives in action. Contemplation is part of the good life, also.

**Bridget Burke Ravizza, professor of theology and religious studies, also teaches in the peace and justice, women's and gender studies, and Master of Theological Studies programs.**





# Interfaith Dialogue / A Visit to Israeli and Palestinian Communities

## Dual narratives



A packed fortnight focused on fostering interfaith dialogue included homestays with Palestinian families in Bethlehem, Shabbat dinner with a Jewish family, a visit to an Israeli settlement on the West Bank and a meeting with the founders of Parents Circle Families Forum (parents from both sides of the conflict who have lost children and now campaign for peace).

**Andrew O'Connor** (Theology & RS) confessed himself deeply affected by the parents' meeting: "I have a daughter, and there were two fathers there who had lost daughters."

O'Connor has travelled widely in the Middle East but appreciated the personal dimension built into the SNC experience: "It was wonderful having a rabbi explain the significance and context of the Shabbat dinner."



## Fresh look at a fraught history

Open minds and recognized expertise – expertise not just in Judaism, Islam and Christianity, but in Middle East history and water ecology – accompanied SNC encounters with Israeli and Palestinian communities this summer.

In designing the perspective-sharing trip, group leaders **Bob Pyne** (Miller Center) and **Bob Kramer** (History) drew on their contacts and experience in the region. Kramer says, "Our underlying ethos was to highlight all of the historical background to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict but do it without judgment, and expose the participants to as many points of view as possible." Israeli and Palestinian guides offered parallel perspectives on the sites and artifacts the group encountered.

**Andrew O'Connor** (Theology & RS), whose research field is Islam, notes how much the past is still fought over in Jerusalem, how relevant it is seen to be to the rhetoric of today, and how history and artifacts can be used by either side. "History is not neutral," he says.

The group was "blessed with encounters with all kinds of perspectives, including very controversial positions," adds **Craig Ford** (Theology & RS), who gathered insights for his Introduction to Peace & Justice course this semester.

Ford says: "When you go there you can understand why this very small piece of land on planet Earth takes up the international energy that it does. Theologies are created to help human beings think through how they can most faithfully reflect God's

intention on Earth. Questions about our relationship with God and each other have very real applications in the region, they are not just private questions for the individual." He's still corresponding with the rabbi who met with the group.

For **Derek Elkins** (Emmaus Center), SNC's Protestant chaplain, spirit of place was key to the experience. "There is something special about being in the places where Jesus walked. You can sit on the Mount of Olives and breathe the same air. That will stay with me, and I will share it with students."

Water ecologist **Carrie Kissman** (Biology, Environmental Science) recognizes water rights as key to the group's mission to focus on human rights and civil liberties. (The visit was partly funded for this purpose by the Menard Center for the Study of Institutions & Innovation.) "The question of who controls water and who has access to it," she says, "is hard to grapple with when you're in Green Bay on the shores of the largest freshwater resource on the planet. As ecologists we study all organisms and how they interact. In my classes I show that, if we recognize that we humans are part of the ecological community, that will affect our actions."

"It was a heavy learning experience, with the scale of the injustices we were hearing about, but also rich and rewarding."

**Sarah Parks** (Music), **Kathleen Gallagher Elkins** and **Tom Bolin** (Theology & RS), **Angel Saavedra Cisneros** (Political Science), and **Jill Olson** (Miller Center) completed the delegation from SNC.



# A ministry of presence



Those white robes on campus continue to provide a true ministry of presence. On campus for 2022-23, some new Norbertine faces as well as familiar names in new positions:

The **Rev. Jonathan Turba** (pictured right), the new vocation director at St. Norbert Abbey, currently spends two days on campus as a resource to students. Turba also assists with liturgical life at the college parish. He has celebrated Masses at Old St. Joe's and blessed residence halls on campus. Turba says that he appreciates the energy of the college environment: "The students are at a big and beautiful juncture in their lives, learning more about themselves and where the Lord is calling them. It is an honor, a privilege and a blessing for me to get to walk with these students on their faith journeys, and to help them discern their own calling."

**Frater Bernard Brodeur** (center) works with the parish's RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and Generations of Faith programs as part of his apostolic year – the second year in a two-year novitiate. "My hope this year is to forge connections and build relationships with and between students here at St. Norbert College," he says. "Relationships are central to our Catholic faith and an integral part of the Norbertine charism."

The **Rev. Matthew Dougherty '09** (Biology) assists at the college parish as well as teaching. He also invites students to join him in recreation: "I hope to get students out fishing on the Fox below the De Pere Dam, perhaps start a fishing club. St. Norbert is blessed to be situated on a world-class walleye fishery."

The **Rev. Patrick LaPacz '09** is the program coordinator at the Center for Norbertine Studies. His role includes supporting daily activities at the center, planning programs and events, giving presentations on Norbertine identity and teaching the "*Communio* and the Norbertines" class. He views presence as an important ministry: "Simply by wearing the white Norbertine habit when I'm on campus, I am witness to the Norbertine and Catholic identity of the college."

The **Rev. Onwu Akpa** (Economics), enjoys sharing more than one of his passions with students: "I like teaching and talking with students on academic and non-academic things, especially soccer and neuroeconomics," he says. Akpa also assists at the parish, where the **Rev. Michael Brennan '99** is the new pastor. Brennan, chaplain for the National Shrine of St. Joseph, is also a member of the college's board of trustees.

## DR. THOMAS BENO

1921-2022

The college's oldest living alum, **Dr. Thomas Beno '43**, died Sept. 13, 2022. He was 101 years old. Beno studied chemistry at St. Norbert College and went on to study medicine at the University of Wisconsin Medical School.



He served in the United States Navy while in medical school and completed a tour in Korea, where he was chief of surgery at a field hospital. He received an honorable discharge in 1946. Beno volunteered with a two-month USAID program to provide medical care for civilians in Vietnam in 1967. He survived the bombing of Cantho in August of that same year. He received awards for his work in Vietnam from USAID, the American Medical Association and the Republic of Vietnam.

A world-traveler, in and out of service to others, Beno visited 54 countries and walked on all seven continents. Many of those travels were with his wife of 45 years, Louvain, who died in 2006.

Beno spent time on the medical staffs of three Green Bay hospitals, and he served in many leadership positions in the Green Bay area medical community.

In 1968, he received the St. Norbert College Alma Mater Award and, from 1986 to 1996, he served on the St. Norbert College Board of Trustees.

Beno is survived by four children and many grandchildren, including **Kristen '19** and **Grace '21**.

The family connection to St. Norbert only deepened in the past decade as Kristen, a psychology major, and Grace, a fine art major, enjoyed their own journeys at the world's only Norbertine college. That shared experience became a source of reminiscing and delightful conversation between the three Green Knights: "He'd always call us to see how we were doing," said Grace in the May 2021 issue of @St.Norbert. "We'd talk about our liberal arts philosophy and theology classes."

Grace added: "Whenever we take him out and about, to dinner or church, quite a few people recognize and talk to him, because he was the local surgeon and doctor and worked with so many people, and their parents. He just had a huge impact on the community."

SNC's oldest alum is now **Paul Goodreau '50**, 98, of Traverse City, Mich. The oldest by class year is **Dr. Willard Janssen '48**, 96, of De Pere.







**By Melanie Radzicki McManus '83**

When a demolition crew marched into Bergstrom Hall this past summer, they had no idea what lay in store. But as they began dismantling the res-hall ceilings as part of a major renovation, they discovered nearly every single one contained an assortment of gifts.

The gifts were items that former Bergies, as residents are called, had placed there for future residents, and they came in the form of handwritten letters and a collection of random objects.

“In this industry, we find stuff hidden above the ceilings all the time,” says **Chris Dahlke** (Facilities). “But you just don’t normally find this much stuff.”

Realizing the “time capsule” significance of the find, the college had the items carefully removed for preservation in the school archives.

Sifting through the letters, you’ll find information on school history and campus traditions, amusing tales of campus life, and lots of words of encouragement. “Sometimes things don’t go perfect – I promise you’ll get through it,” reads one. Another says, “Have fun, embrace the year. School is hard work, but isn’t everything in life?”

They also contain surprisingly sage advice, considering the authors had just completed their first year on campus. “It’s okay to cry!” reads one. “Happy tears, sad tears, I don’t know why tears – all are

welcome. Be comfortable with it.” Another, referring to roommate conflicts, says, “Take a deep breath and remember that at the end of the day, you’re sharing a room with another person with their own set of emotions. But nonetheless, still worthy of your respect.”

Helpful recommendations are also dispensed. “The walk to Zesty’s is worth it.” “Actually read the news emails [SNC News, the campus’ internal newsletter] sent out on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They’re a great way to find a fun activity to do or sporting event to attend.” “The trail across the bridge, I think it’s called the Fox River Trail, is SO NICE. You can run, jog, hike, walk, bike or even rollerblade on the miles of paved trail. It’s very safe and a great way to become part of the local community. Also it’s plowed in the winter up to two miles away from campus, so don’t be afraid to use it!”

And, of course, many are filled with humor. “Note to self – lock the door when changing.” “Are there SparkNotes for the Bible?” “Some of the med students are REALLY hot.”

The gifted objects are a mélange of potentially useful items, silly things and personal memorabilia: stuffed animals, a can of refried beans, photos, a tiny rubber chicken, a yellow tutu, a program from the musical *Kinky Boots*, etc.

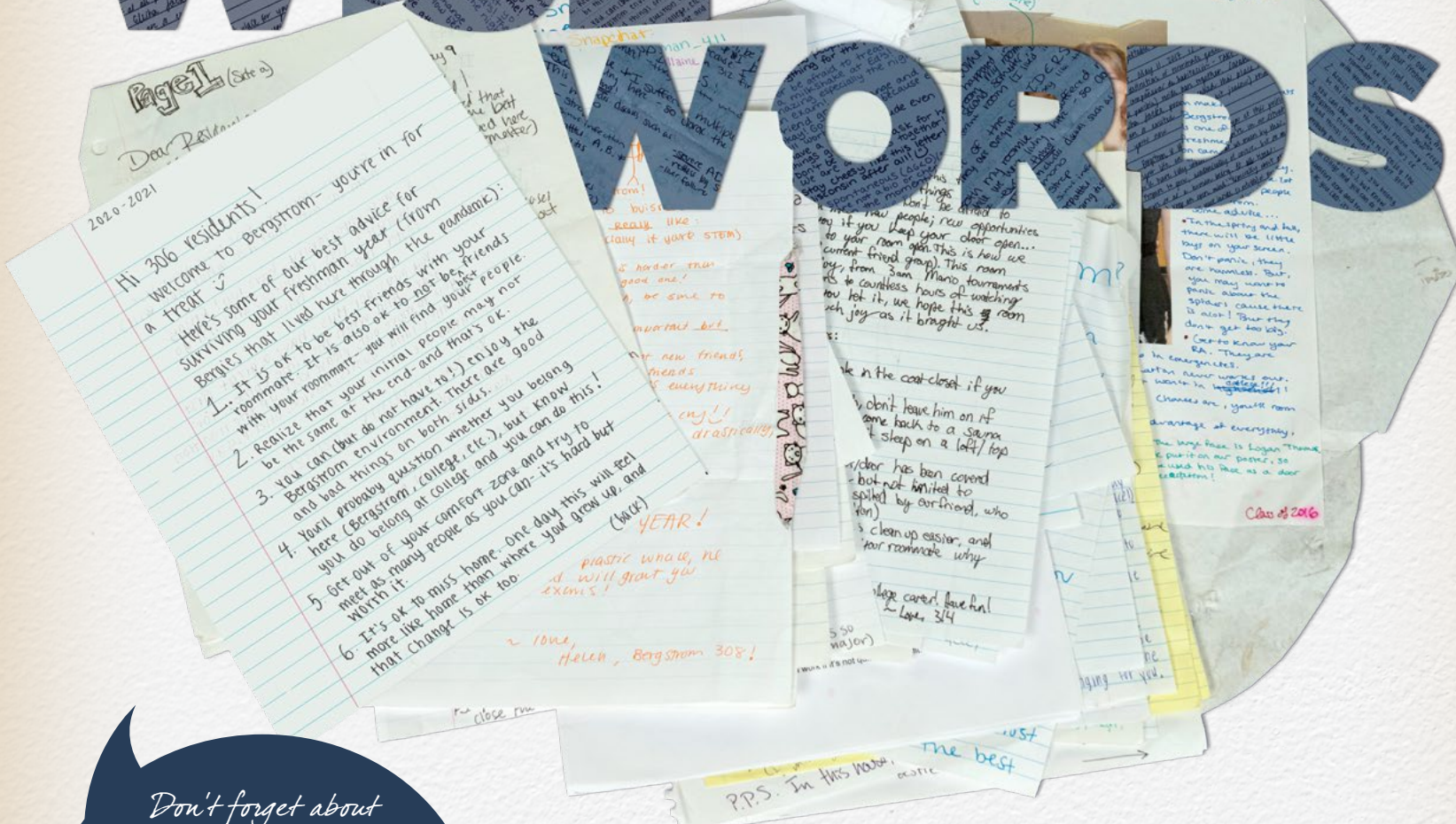
*Don't be afraid if you don't find your friend group right away. One of the hardest lessons to learn throughout freshman year is being patient with yourself and trusting the journey.*

*Go to office hours!!! Your professors will love you for it.*





# WISER



Don't forget about your parents or loved ones! As scary and new as all of this is for you, it's just as scary for them, and a simple phone call would make their day!

Never skip lunch on Potato Bowl or Turkey Shawarma Day!

Former Bergies say they were never directly told about this fun tradition. But hints were freely dispensed shortly after move-in day. **Bonnie Raechal Beres '23** arrived in Bergstrom Hall's room 303 in the fall of 2019. "When former Bergstrom residents found out I lived in Bergstrom, they would say something along the lines of, 'The ceiling tiles pop out,' or, 'Check your ceiling,'" she says. When she quizzed them about why she should check her ceiling – not a normal activity – they told her to just do it.

"I remember being unsure of what I would find up there," Beres says. "Spider webs? Mold? I had no idea it would be funny gifts and notes."

**Tamika Wiesner '20** arrived in Bergstrom in 2017. Within the first day or so of her arrival, the RAs told the residents to see what was up with the

rooms' removable ceiling tiles. Almost immediately, chaos ensued.

"As soon as one person went up into their ceiling, dozens of people were running out of their rooms showing people the crazy stuff they had found," she says. Wiesner recalls students pulling down room décor, office supplies and even fully stamped coffee-club cards for Ed's Coffee Shop & Café. "I don't think I heard of a room that didn't have anything in the ceiling."

**Kyra Kronberg '20**, newly on staff as an admission counselor at SNC, first heard about the practice from friends. They considered the collective stash a time capsule of sorts. Indeed, one of the items uncovered is a copy of the Green Bay Press-Gazette. Dated March 22, 2020, the main front-page story carries the headline, "Coronavirus Pandemic: How We're Coping." The student who placed the paper



in the ceiling circled the date and wrote, “The day we moved out and Corona took over the world, LOL.”

When **Kelsey Motto '18** was getting ready to leave Bergstrom after the 2014-15 academic year, she joined a group who decided to donate their Bert piggybanks for placement in one friend's ceiling. (Every incoming student receives a philanthropically oriented piggybank named Bert.) “I think there were close to 40 piggybanks up there,” she says. “It was a fun tradition we were happy to be part of.”

In an interesting twist on this tradition, Wiesner says her ceiling actually contained notes for both her room and the residents of the neighboring one. Apparently, the neighboring room's previous inhabitants somehow hadn't learned of the tradition until after they'd turned in their room keys at the end of the school year. Not wanting to miss out on the fun, nor shortchange their room's future residents, they'd penned a note and handed it to their neighbors to tuck into their ceiling, with instructions for its subsequent delivery.

While no one knows for sure when this tradition started, the cache includes a

computer punch card used in the college's registration process in the 1980s. And Dahlke says he remembers some photos that carried dates from the 1980s and 1990s.

This novel discovery begs the question: Is this a campus-wide tradition? Sort of. Kronberg says people living in Sensenbrenner have discovered items in their ceilings, and she's heard rumors Burke residents have as well. But Dahlke says not every residence hall features rooms with removable ceiling tiles, so it can't be occurring everywhere.

And unfortunately for current Bergstrom residents, this tradition may have come to an end. The new ceiling tiles installed during the hall's renovation are much lighter than the tiles from the past, Dahlke says, and won't be able to support any objects residents try to tuck away.

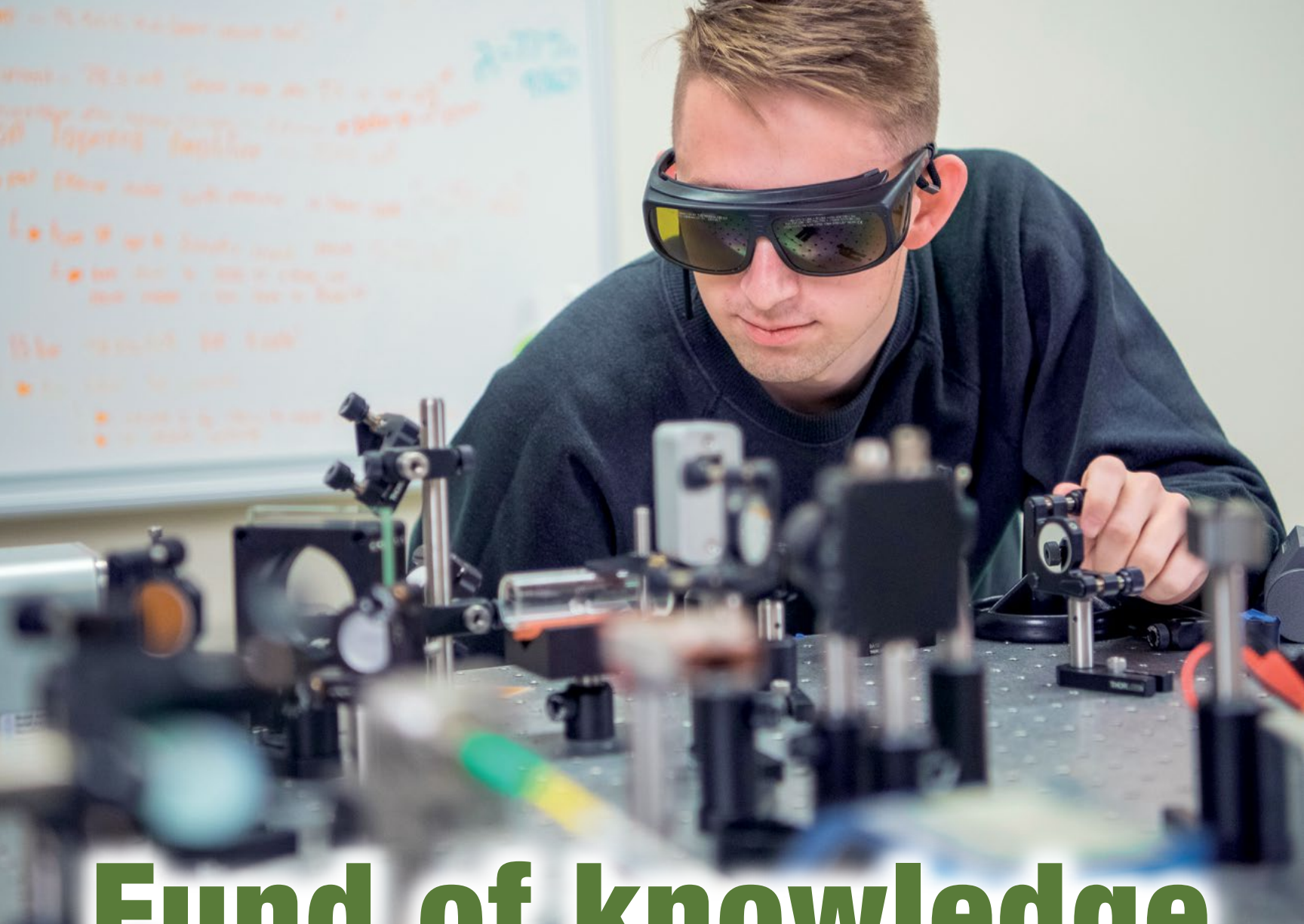
But Bergstrom is the hall reserved for those cerebral students admitted to the college's honors program. If anyone can figure out a way to continue the tradition, it will be them. ♣

*Get involved, but not too involved. Try new things and find yourself - but make sure you make time for yourself.*

*Hang out with people you barely know. They could be your future bestie.*







# Fund of knowledge

A magnanimous total of five National Science Foundation grants are among multiple sources currently financing cutting-edge research at St. Norbert

By Trisha (Whitkanack) Lawless '96

The thrill of discovery is an essential part of the educational journey for students and faculty at St. Norbert College. It's a journey in which the college finds willing partners – among them the National Science Foundation (NSF). SNC currently has five active research grants from the influential federal agency.

“It's exciting to see St. Norbert College, a primarily undergraduate institution, engaging with the NSF at this level,” says Colette St. Mary of the Directorate for Biological Sciences, who manages one of the SNC awards for the NSF. “Attracting proposals from a diverse array of organizations is one of the primary ways we hope to broaden participation and we recognize it cannot happen without strong institutional support for research.”

**David Bailey** (Biology), associate vice president for academic affairs, says: “These grants are a testament to the scholarly

pursuits of St. Norbert's bright and talented faculty, who remain deeply committed to the education and training of our students while advancing knowledge in their respective fields. Each of these grants showcase and leverage our state-of-the-art science facilities and equipment.”

As you explore the details of these NSF-funded projects take a moment to imagine their impact:

- Students are growing.
- SNC professors are furthering their research.
- Discoveries are being made that impact our greater world.

**Above: Ben Spaude '23 aligns a saturated-absorption spectroscopy setup in the optical lab of Erik Brekke (Physics). More on page 22.**



NAME OF GRANT:

## Collaborative Research: Study of the Connections between Ordering, Dynamics and Glass Forming Ability in Metallic Liquids

AMOUNT: \$229,325

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: **Nicholas Mauro** (Physics)



**PURPOSE:** You're probably familiar with the term "heavy metal," but what about "glass metal?" This grant funds investigations of different metals that form unusual solid phases called "glasses." The project aims to distinguish glass-forming ability using a new technique involving neutron scattering. This technique allows the team to measure how long it takes for atoms to rearrange themselves as liquid cools into the solid state.

**OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:** In a recent publication, the team studied the cooling of a particular type of metal liquid. They were surprised to learn that the structure and movement of the atoms seems to clearly have a low temperature and a high temperature behavior. This suggests other similar metals might also show this kind of behavior.

**QUOTED:** "Through this work, my students make meaningful contributions, develop important skills for their future careers and get a sense for the research process outside of the confines of the classroom. We hope to develop programs that connect underrepresented communities to STEM researchers and start to evaluate the most effective ways to get these students into STEM careers." – **Nicholas Mauro** (Physics)

NAME OF GRANT:

## Creating a Minor in Education as a Pathway for Science, Math or Computer Science Majors to Obtain Teaching Licensure

AMOUNT: \$118,360

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: **Deborah Anderson** (Biology)

CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: **Reid Riggle** (Education), **Patricia Norman** (Education), **Chris Bradford** (Education), **Seth Meyer** (Mathematics)



**PURPOSE:** This project is a partnership between SNC and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) that aims to create a new pathway toward teaching licensure for STEM majors. The funding of the grant led to development of the 4-12 Teaching & Natural Sciences major, the science licensure proposal which was submitted to the state of Wisconsin, and a partnership with NWTC to facilitate transfers from their lab sciences program into SNC's secondary education program.

**OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:** The resources provided by this award (which is within the NSF Robert Noyce Scholarship Program) are helping investigators and collaborators build the capacity needed to submit a Track I proposal; a highly-competitive Track I win would additionally allow SNC to offer scholarships to students interested in completing the new major.

**QUOTED:** "When I found out I was able to both finish my undergraduate degree in natural science and pursue a degree in education, I realized I was being given a chance to fulfill both of my goals. The horizon is infinite!" – **Cyan Hite '22**, Teaching & Natural Sciences major



NAME OF GRANT:

## RUI: Microwave to Optical Frequency Conversion Through Six-Wave Mixing

AMOUNT: \$247,964

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: **Erik Brekke** (Physics)



**PURPOSE:** This grant provides funding for experimental atomic-molecular-optical research involving lasers, and includes support for equipment as well as summer research positions for two physics students. As Brekke explains, his team studies how to control the frequency of typical lasers and how to create new lasers from the interaction of existing lasers with atoms. The next realm his team is exploring is converting between optical (red) laser and microwave wavelength lasers.

**OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:** The team has obtained several new laser systems and is feeling energized as they set up the last few. They have already successfully excited high-energy level “Rydberg states” and seen microwave transitions between them.

**QUOTED:** “I hope this work provides continuing excellent experiences for our students to get involved in research – experimental design, data collection, analysis, publication – that can give them a sense for where they might go in the future.”  
– **Erik Brekke** (Physics)

NAME OF GRANT:

## Collaborative Research: Targeted Neurosteroidogenesis and Complex Memory Function

AMOUNT: \$193,086

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: **David Bailey** (Biology)



**PURPOSE:** What are the impacts when hormonal and electrical signaling processes interact in the human body? How are complex behaviors like memory function affected? These are questions being examined by Bailey’s team, which recently documented a combination of these two signaling systems. One example they’re investigating is known as estrogen synthesis at the synapse (SES). Using the zebra finch, a species with abundant SES, they seek to better understand how SES impacts learning, storage and recall of information. This program will also welcome high-school teachers and undergraduate students into the labs for summer internships, and will develop a new course in neuroanatomy.

**OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:** Another component of this research will study respiratory and vocal changes during chronic hormone therapy. The research team plans to partner with the SNC music department as it seeks qualified choral performers to participate in these studies.

**QUOTED:** “The broader impacts of this study are numerous. It can help further our understanding of the development and adaptation of the central nervous system in vertebrate animals. It will further our understanding on why estrogens fluctuate in the brain and could point to benefits of supplementing these levels in ways such as your diet.” – **Jack Hanauer ’22**, research partner



NAME OF GRANT:

## Community-Building, Mentoring and Research Experiences to Develop Undergraduate STEM Majors' Scientific Identities and Preparation for STEM Careers

AMOUNT: \$998,759

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: **Anindo Choudhury** (Biology, Environmental Science)

CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: **David Bailey** (Biology), **Jamie Lynch** (Sociology), **Timothy Flood** (Geology)



**PURPOSE:** This program provides four-year scholarships, along with research and mentoring programs, to 15 high-achieving STEM students. With nearly \$1 million granted, this is St. Norbert College's largest federal research grant to date, says Choudhury. The program is designed for exceptional students who could otherwise face financial challenges to accessing an education at SNC. Scholars are offered robust opportunities that include living-learning communities, participation in faculty-mentored research and a seminar series. Components of the program will also be available to the general SNC population. This will serve to broaden the grant's impact, as will a research study examining how students develop their scientific identity.

**OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:** During the summer of 2022, five students supported by this scholarship program secured summer fellowships at other prominent research facilities across the country.

**QUOTED:** "This is the most meaningful grant I've been involved with in terms of scope and impact. We have the opportunity as an institution to make a difference in the lives of very talented students and foster their development. My hope is that as an institution we will also use the information and experience we've developed for further grants and support of this nature."

– **Anindo Choudhury** (Biology, Environmental Science) ♣

### A long-standing investment

St. Norbert College has benefited from multiple NSF grants over the years, including:

- \$30,400 in 1987 for research into the use of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy in Undergraduate Chemistry Instruction – principal investigator **David Klopotek '64** (Chemistry)
- \$254,471 in 1994 towards the renovation of the John Minahan Science Hall (the predecessor of today's Gehl-Mulva Science Center on campus) – principal investigator **Jim Hodgson** (Biology)
- \$132,262 and \$108,000 in 1994 and 1996 for initiating projects in the Mathematics Achievement & Performance in Science (MAPS) for Native American Young Scholars program – principal investigators **Bonnie Berken** (Mathematics) and **Larry Thorsen** (Mathematics)
- \$500,000 in 2007 for developing Natural Science PRIDE: A Program to Promote, Recruit, Involve, Develop & Employ Students in Mathematics & Computer Science – principal investigators **John Frohlinger '85** (Mathematics) and **Bonnie McVey '82** and **Dave Pankratz '69** (Computer Science)
- \$108,560 in 2007 for Collaborative Research: Leading Indicators of Regime Shift, an Ecosystem Experiment – principal investigator **Jim Hodgson** (Biology)



# Vocation is an itinerary *of hope*

By Eric Schreiber,  
Associate Editor



When **Paul Wadell** (Theology & RS, Emeritus) taught his first class on vocation at St. Norbert, **Becky Lahti** (Emmaus Center) was one of his students. Now Lahti, pictured here with him in Ed's Coffee Shop, carries on the work.



There are periods off from work, career changes and the promise of freedom in retirement, but as **Paul Wadell** (Theology & RS, Emeritus) says, there is no vacation from your vocation. The calling to do something life-affirming, something for the greater good, only deepens with time. New callings, too, may appear unannounced even into the later years of life.

"I'm an old enough Catholic that I was raised on the language of vocation," says Wadell. "My parents always told us to pray to know our vocation," But his fascination with the subject didn't begin in earnest until he arrived at SNC and was asked to oversee the faculty and staff development portion of the Lilly Endowment-funded Faith, Learning & Vocation program.

"At the time, vocation in the Catholic Church was very tightly associated with 'are you called to the priesthood or religious life,'" Wadell says. "This program really broadened my sense of what is vocation, and I became deeply fascinated with it. It's not just 'what is my career?' or 'am I going to be married or be single?' Every day we are called, to be attentive, to be responsible, be kind, be alert, to be aware of other people. That really was a spark for me. It took an idea that I was familiar with and opened it up to a broader, richer meaning. I was captivated, fascinated."

### First the convent, then the canvas

That broader meaning would resonate with **Theresa Wanta '69**, who entered a convent at the age of 14.

"I wanted to get off the farm. ... I wanted to broaden my knowledge," she says. She was told she could be an artist, but after taking her vows, she was sent forth to teach.

Feeling restless, she then took on a new challenge: working with abused and impoverished children in the South. Her veil brought her a great level of trust from the families. She loved the children and notes that she became "quite good" at teaching, but religious life was hard for Wanta: "I could see the convent was dying. ... I did not want to be part of a dying thing, and I really wanted to pursue the fine arts. I was 36 at the time.

"I left to get my Bachelor of Fine Arts at Stevens Point. I left, and I got \$500 to start with; it seemed like a lot. I held three jobs and went to school. I had nothing, I didn't even have a salt and pepper shaker."

A few corporate design jobs followed, but a bout with carpal tunnel forced Wanta to once again change course. So, she set off to New York City and, late in life, got her master's degree in art from the New York Academy of Art: Graduate School of Figurative Art. She wanted to teach art but, at 52, there was a new hurdle to overcome: "I had an issue with my back, and I couldn't work. I was too embarrassed to go on disability, coming from my farm background and

taking care of yourself.

"They said I could get off disability if I started my own business selling my art. And that's what I did."

Wanta's work has now been shown in dozens of galleries and received numerous awards.

### Vocational communities

Since SNC's Faith, Learning & Vocation program began in 2000, it has set SNC faculty and staff thinking about questions like these, questions of calling and human flourishing. "I was worried," says Wadell. "'What if nobody says anything?' But from the beginning people were very anxious to talk at a deeper level about working at the college as a vocation or deeper calling." Wadell and the center's then-director, **Julie Massey '87**, remained involved with vocational work in the following years with the formation of NetVUE, a network that aims to help colleges educate future leaders "who are eager to sustain a life of service that is guided by a sense of calling."

Meanwhile, that spark Wadell felt mid-career has become a burning passion in retirement. He says, "Vocation is so important in light of the problems in our world today, the division, the polarization. That vocation is our way of calling attention to living for something greater than ourselves. ... And it's at the heart of what a liberal arts education is."

### Two passions, two careers


After decades in journalism, primarily with the Green Bay Press-Gazette, **Tony Walter '69** was thrust into a second vocation: "I had attended a church weekend function and met a man who had been working with the youth. He asked me to work at camp. Jokingly, he said to just try it for one year. Well, you don't just do those things for one year. I got hooked."

Walter says, "It was very early in my ministry. ... I had a busy day at the newspaper, and it was our regular youth meeting that night. I told my wife I wasn't sure if I didn't make it. And then at the last minute I thought, 'Oh, I'll just go.' A young girl, about 16, asked if she could talk. I looked at her and said, 'What's on your mind?' ... I could tell that she had tears in her eyes, and she said, 'I thought about killing myself this afternoon.'"

Moments like those made Walter confident he was doing what he was called to do: "It was the greatest lesson because the most important thing when working with youth is showing up." He balanced journalism and ministry for a while, and then in the mid-90s, with his children now out on their own, he took a youth ministry position in South Carolina, then one in Milwaukee. Eight years later, he returned to the Press-Gazette to be near his son's growing family. Walter



Persistence and humor steered **Theresa Wanta '69** to a new calling that matched her early dreams. It's a story she tells in her book, "As I Remember It: A Memoir of Persistence, Tenacity & Humor" (2022).

 Mission is one of the four priorities of the current Support What Matters campaign, a \$125 million fundraising initiative timed to align with the upcoming 125th anniversary of the college.





## Institutions have vocations, too

Paul Wadell says, “For a long time I think St. Norbert College took its mission for granted. Now, there’s a statue of St. Norbert, banners everywhere, road signs to different abbeys, pictures of Norbertines. Who are we called to be as the only Catholic, liberal arts and Norbertine college in the world?”

learned to never look back with regret or questioning. He chooses to follow the impulse of what he wants to do, and what is the right thing to do.

Walter retired from the newspaper in 2012 and continued to work in youth ministry on a part-time basis. Meanwhile, his desire to write never wavered: He is the author of three books on the Green Bay Packers – all published in later life.

## Retirement is just another chapter

It’s a restlessness that Wadell can relate to. He himself was left searching in retirement. “I felt like I lost my footing; I felt off balance,” Wadell says. “**Ken Zahorski** (English, Emeritus) told me, ‘Paul, it’s important to retire with a plan.’ I think that’s hugely important. ... Retirement gives you the opportunity to refocus your priorities away from work.”

Wadell has connected with old friends, satiated his love for cycling and reinforced his understanding that vocation is a lifelong journey, with retirement just one chapter. He travels to NetVUE schools across the country, giving presentations and sharing this passion for helping others find and nurture their callings. “It’s important to listen to what our heart is telling us. ... Sometimes we drown that out with the noise, the clutter in our lives,” Wadell says. “Instead of looking through the perspective of what’s in it for me, vocation changes all of that. The focus is more on how can I make the world better in small, everyday ways.”

## A lifelong advocate for others

The new Wisconsin state director of the AARP – formerly the American Association for Retired Persons, an organization wholly dedicated to flourishing in later life – is **Martha Cranley ’83**, who herself took time to evaluate her career and vocational

ambitions at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. “I was appreciating the fact that I had a lifetime of skills, and I saw retirement on the horizon. I wanted to make sure the last few years of my working life were contributing to something meaningful,” says Cranley.

She worked for many years with nonprofits, lobbying on behalf of low-income children and families. Later still, she joined the United Way to focus on philanthropy. The new challenge with AARP came about after months of deep reflection. “It was one of those exercises people want you to do: What are the things I really enjoy doing, what am I good at and how can I continue to give back in a way that’s meaningful,” she says. “You almost come back, in some ways, to the beginning of your career when you’re looking for something really meaningful. ... You’re thinking about, what’s my legacy in the career space. Sometimes that’s the work itself, sometimes it’s mentoring younger people in your orbit.

“I am an all-Catholic school kid, all the way through St. Norbert College. ... Catholic social teaching, I don’t know if I can separate it because it influenced everything. Thinking about the world as a contributor in it. We know that to be present on this planet is to be of service to others.”

## Striving to be a person of great spirit

Wadell underscores her beliefs: “A vocation is an invitation to live a magnanimous life. ... Our culture in a lot of ways discourages that.”

In his view, the search for meaning in life is not in what we do, but in answering the question: Who are we trying to become as a person? Wadell says, “A lot of our most important callings in life are not things we seek out and choose, but things that we’re asked to do, things that summon us.” ♣

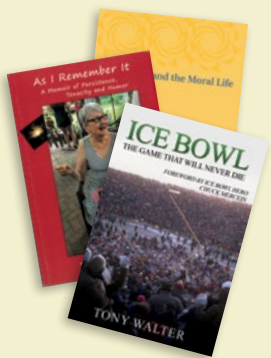
## There’s a book in this

• “When I retired, I thought I wanted to write a book. ... What I had was the Green Bay Packers; I grew up in the Green Bay Area, worked covering the Packers for many years,” says **Tony Walter ’69**.

“I went back through the first 10 years of the Packers. ... In 1922, the team lost its franchise, got it back, was failing financially and some people with influence and money got behind it. That’s where the book came from, ‘Baptism by Football.’ And that led to my second book ... . My father had been a journalist and sports editor in Green Bay in the 30s. I had all his diaries. My third book, which was just published, is about the Ice Bowl, the championship game in 1967 in 15 below zero, and I was there. I was on the field.”

• **Theresa Wanta** wrote “As I Remember It: A Memoir of Persistence, Tenacity & Humor” (2022) to inspire people from rural areas to chase what makes them happy; there are many reasons to stay put in the path of least resistance but trying new things and taking big leaps changes your life for the better.

• **Paul Wadell** is the author of a number of books on the Christian life, including “Friendship & the Moral Life” (1990) and “Happiness & the Christian Moral Life” (2016).



## Alumni engage in inclusive excellence



The Cassandra Voss Center’s six-month Program for Inclusive Excellence brings together professionals working in nonprofits, asphalt and pavement, plumbing, health care and banking to become better equipped at have difficult conversations around race and identity. And for two SNC alums, the results have been transformative.

Modeled after the cohort program utilized by SNC’s Center for Exceptional Leadership, and similarly welcoming of alumni, the Program for Inclusive Excellence centers on open dialogue between the 10 or so participants. “We have no shortage of well-meaning people in the community who want to create great workplaces, but sometimes they don’t have the grounding to be as inclusive as necessary,” says **Billy Korinko ’09**, director of the CVC. “Our objective is to give people skills to hear divergent viewpoints in the most charitable way possible.”

**Madeline Ames**, assistant director of the CVC, says, “To be part of a program that connects you with so many others across the whole region, and different organizations, it helps break down barriers people maybe didn’t notice before.”

For St. Norbert alums, the program has both made them better communicators and built a robust professional network. **Amanda Gay ’11**, donor engagement and stewardship manager for the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, says, “I feel that I have grown substantially in my ability to speak about difficult topics, engage in hard conversation and learn

to be open-minded to ideas that I thought otherwise were against my beliefs.”

**Daniel Webster ’17, MBA ’21**, human resources business partner for Walbec Group, says, “The main thing that will shape my work moving forward is having had the opportunity to establish a network of DEIB [diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging] practitioners who exist right here in northeast Wisconsin, who are action-oriented toward creating more inclusionary workplaces.”

The program hosts a series of speakers chosen to address specific concerns from organizations in the Brown County region and has participants create an impact project that they will apply to their organization. “[The project] challenges them to make something that’s actionable and doable, but also aspirational. ... We want people to have deepened skills for addressing equity in the workplace and for cultivating buy-in,” says Korinko.

Korinko and Ames note that creating an inclusive and equitable workplace is an arduous task and requires constant attention, but the rewards are immense. Ames says, “If people feel they belong at work and are welcomed, valued as a whole person, they are going to be better in every facet of their lives.”

Organizations that are doing this well are comfortable addressing the elephant in the room and talking about issues in the news. We don’t check our identities when we clock-in to work. ... We’re not robots,” says Korinko.

### Listen first



“We recognize that in the current context we’re in, if we describe our work as diversity or inclusion work, there’s already going to be some folks with a preconceived notion of what that looks like,” says **Billy Korinko ’09**.

“We need to find common ground ... If we get someone who says, ‘I’ve been watching the news that it seems the work you’re doing is critical race theory and it’s dividing communities more. ... I might wholly disagree with that conclusion, but part of our strategy is not to say how wrong they are.”

“Instead, I’ll say, ‘It sounds like you’re worried about making this world more divided, and it sounds like you want it less divided. We agree on that. We actually have deep commonality around that.’”



## Births/ Adoptions

**1995 Bridget (Flad) and Scott Daniels**, Green Bay, a daughter, Josephine, May 2020.

**2006 Irene Gorman and Brian Blickenstaff**, Heidelberg, Germany, a daughter, Esmé Rosemary, Jan. 24, 2022.

**2007 Krista (Perine) and Paul Gies**, Las Vegas, a daughter, Ireland Grace, May 14, 2022. She joins sister Kirstin, 9.

**2008 Lindsey (Pioneck) and Alex Mattucci**, River Forest, Ill., a daughter, Mia Liliana, Feb. 11, 2022.

**2009 Gina Bortel and William Dolenshek**, Milwaukee, a son, Jack Henry, July 12, 2022.

**2009 Maria (Hilbert) and Arthur Janowiak '09**, Kaukauna, Wis., a son, Silas, July 15, 2022. He joins siblings Vivian, 8, Julia, 6, Levi, 4, and Ambrose, 2.

**2010 Cassie (Burns) and Jeff Schneider**, Green Bay, a daughter, Emery Anne, July 13, 2021.

**2010 Nikki (Ferron) and Alex Hoffman '10**, West Bend, Wis., a son, Henry, Oct. 22, 2021. He joins sister Sunny, 2.

**2010 Cassandra (Baker) and Ricky Diaz**, a daughter, Olivia, Jan. 6, 2022.

**2010 Andrea (Liebelt) and Ryan Schmitz**, Sheboygan, Wis., a daughter, Hallie Rose, June 9, 2022. She joins sister Elizabeth, age 2.

**2011 Michael and Nicole Burmesch**, a son, Baker, April 29, 2022. He joins sister

Ivy, 4, and brother Beckham, 2.

**2011 Kayla (Sadowski) and Terry Sadowski-Metcalf**, Madison, Wis., a daughter, Teagan, Jan. 6, 2022.

**2011 Lauren (Hughes) and Jonas Baltuska '10**, Lockport, Ill., a son, Sean Patrick, Aug. 25, 2022. He joins sisters Estelle, 6, and Colette, 3.

**2012 Kelly (Dunaway) and John Anstett '12**, De Pere, a daughter, Mila Marie, May 28, 2021. She joins brothers Noah, 6, and Rory, 4.

**2012 Emily (Perszyk) and John Grogan '12**, Oconomowoc, Wis., a son, Finn, Nov. 19, 2021. He joins brother Jack, 3.

**2012 Sami (Schurhammer) and Ryan Gaughan '11**, Elmhurst, Ill., a son, Rory, May 3. He joins sister Kennedy, 3.

**2014 Hillary (Derks) and Greg Selner**, Green Bay, a daughter, Annabella, Jan. 27, 2022.

**2014 Erin (McQuinn) and Joe Shanahan '14**, Toledo, Ohio, a boy, Aidan, Feb. 17, 2022.

## Marriages

**1976 Debra Ramoska and Paul Buddeke**, Aug. 13, 2022. They live in Louisville, Ky.

**1998 Lynette Smith and Timothy Varecka**, June 18, 2022. They live in Gurnee, Ill., and Tucson, Ariz.

**2001 Kelly Biese and Michael Salerno**, March 19, 2022. They live in Lima, Ohio.

**2007 Theresa Miller and Robert Wuesthoff**, July 31, 2021. They live in Waupun, Wis.

**2010 Brooke Auxier and Andrew Nuss**, May 21, 2022. They live in Austin, Texas.

**2011 Lindsey Novitzke and Jonathan Bell**, Oct. 1, 2022. They live in Monterey, Calif.

**2015 Rachel Losselyong and Patrick Ralph**, June 20, 2020. They live in Lancaster, Wis.

**2016 Taylor Baltus and Kolin Mayborne**, July 23, 2022. They live in De Pere.

## Deaths

**1951 Jim Krueger**, of Green Bay, died April 3, 2022, at the age of 92. He served in the United States Navy during the Korean War. He owned Valley Heating & Air Conditioning and worked for Badger Sheet Metal. He is survived by his wife, Jeraldine, and six children.

**1952 Chuck Holton**, of Milwaukee, died April 19, 2022, at the age of 91. Holton was the first Black student to graduate from St. Norbert College, where he played basketball and ran track. After graduation, he played for the Harlem Globetrotters from 1952 to 58. He worked as the director of health and social services for the City of Milwaukee and later served as the director of the House of Peace organization. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and three children.

**1954 Leo McLaughlin**, of Montello, Wis., died March 20, 2022, at the age of 91. He served in the United States

Army. He worked as a pharmaceutical salesman. He is survived by his wife, Daris.

**1954 Charles "Chuck" Markl**, of Colorado Springs, Colo., died April 4, 2022, at the age of 91. He served in the United States Army for 22 years. He went on to specialize in refinishing furniture and worked as the range control officer at Fort Carson for almost 20 years. He is survived by three children.

**1954 John Hartl Jr.**, of Traverse City, Mich., died July 9, 2022, at the age of 89. He worked for Pan American Airways as a sales executive before spending 46 years as a financial advisor. He is survived by five children.

**1955 Donna Haanen**, of Green Bay, died Jan. 12, 2022, at the age of 88. She worked as a social worker for The Apostolate (Catholic Charities) for 40 years and for Beerntsen's Candies after her retirement. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

**1956 Dr. Don Blink**, of Eau Claire, Wis., died April 2, 2022, at the age of 87. He served in the United States Navy. He practiced family medicine for more than 40 years, eventually working for the Mayo Clinic Health System. He is survived by his wife, Christie, and four children.

**1957 John Rath**, of Appleton, Wis., died March 10, 2022, at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dorothy, and eight children.

**1957 Jerry Mullarkey**, of Clearwater, Fla., died April 21, 2022, at the age of 87. He was an



## Classroom to courtroom

After the resignation of Wrightstown's municipal judge in May 2022, **Evan Mathu '21** decided to take up the gavel. He says, "I've always been interested in public service. My dad teaches political science and history. I want to do my part in making my community a better place."

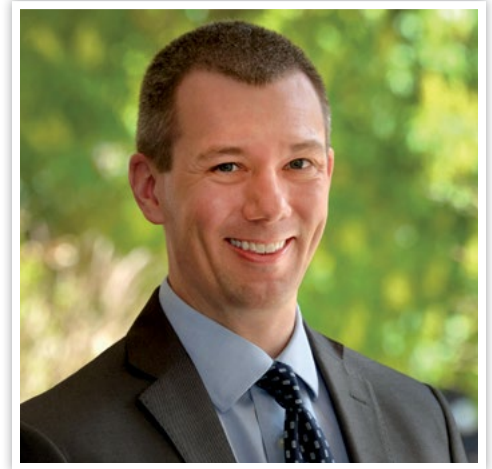
Believed to be the youngest municipal judge in Wisconsin, and quite possibly the nation, Mathu doesn't have a law degree, but that is quite common. While some cities like Green Bay have strict criteria for judges, many smaller municipalities do not. That's not to say the work is not important. "The cases that I hear are ordinance violations, speeding violations, first-offense DUIs. Cases like that. I also approve budgets and sign other paperwork," Mathu says.

Mathu took a required week-long training session facilitated by the state, and he now spends many nights combing through statutes and municipal codes. He says that talking to other municipal judges has been an immense help.

His age and inexperience have ruffled a few defendant's feathers. "A lot of people who come in to contest violations are typically older than I am. ... I just have to remind them that even though I am younger, that doesn't mean I do the job any different or take a less lenient stance," he says.



## Steve Peterson '04



### Works with roads well-traveled

*As manager of highway planning for the Twin Cities, Steve Peterson '04 applies SNC lessons on intersectionality – concretely.*

**Bumps in the road** I think about how people and goods can move through the Twin Cities area, in cars but also on buses, light rails, bikes or while walking. I decide on needed funds and communicate expected outcomes, like safety, congestion and air pollution reduction.

**Recharge your batteries** I analyze how many public-facing charging stations there should be and where. Electric drivers experience “range anxiety.” They can easily charge vehicles at home, but longer trips are difficult because these vehicles have a lower range than gasoline engines.

**Data-driven** The Twin Cities is increasing from 3 million people to over 4 million by 2050, and the pandemic changed driving behavior. Some drivers are fully remote or hybrid, so they don't have a daily commute anymore. This is where data research on vehicle speeds, origins and destinations is helpful.

**Started with a spark** My liberal arts education, experience abroad in a Geography of Mexico field study, and internships with Schneider National and the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission ignited my interest in transportation.

engineer at Honeywell for 37 years. He also worked on the Apollo 8 mission, leading the team tasked with designing the hand controls of the lunar module. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, and four children.

**1958 Pat Boyden**, of Kent, Ohio, died July 30, 2022, at the age of 87. He taught educational technology and library administration at Kent State University. He is survived by his wife, Julie, and four children.

**1959 James “Jim” Maes**, of Green Bay, died April 16, 2022, at the age of 91. He served in the United States Army, with a tour in Japan during the Korean War. He worked as a management accountant for Maes Bus Service and in the paper industry. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and six children.

**1960 John Biese Jr.**, of Appleton, Wis., died June 17, 2022, at the age of 82. He served in the United States Army. He worked for UW Extension as the Crops and Soils agent following his retirement from the military. He is survived by two children.

**1960 Larry Dion**, of Chico, Calif., died July 3, 2022, at the age of 86. He served in the United States Army. He taught math for 44 years, teaching at five different universities. He is survived by two children.

**1961 Karl Van Roy**, of De Pere, died May 10, 2022, at the age of 83. He served in the United States Army. He owned River's Bend Supper Club before serving as a Wisconsin State Representative for 10 years. He is survived by his partner, Sharon, four children,

five stepchildren and Sharon's two children.

**1962 Dave Blahnik**, of Bend, Ore., died March 7, 2022, at the age of 81. He served in the United States Army, retiring after 22 years as a lieutenant colonel. He worked for Westinghouse Marine Division, helping to build Trident submarines as a program manager. He later worked as a substitute education assistant at High Desert Education Service District. He is survived by two children.

**1962 John Van Dinter**, of Waunakee, Wis., died March 30, 2022, at the age of 82. He worked as a chemistry and physics teacher before joining law enforcement, retiring as captain in 1997. He is survived by his wife, Maureen, and four children.

**1964 Pat Ryan**, of Green Bay, died March 9, 2022, at the age of 80. He owned and operated Petroleum Equipment Service and built several Grand Central Station convenience stores in the Green Bay area. He is survived by three children, including **Megan '77**.

**1964 Sandy (Hammer) LeRoy**, of Watertown, Wis., died June 12, 2022, at the age of 80. She worked as a piano teacher. She is survived by her husband, **Ronald '62**, and two children.

**1965 Bonnie (Katers) Granius**, of Green Bay, died March 16, 2022, at the age of 78. She taught Spanish at several Green Bay Public Schools and at St. Norbert and UW-Green Bay. She is survived by her husband, Cal, and three children.

**1965 Howard Moe**, of North Andover,

Mass., died April 12, 2022, at the age of 78. He served in the United States Army. He worked as a manufacturing plant manager and business consultant. He is survived by three children.

**1966 Bill Ruys**, of De Pere, died May 22, 2022, at the age of 76. He taught English and Latin at Franklin Junior High in Green Bay. He later received his Master of Library Science degree from UW-Milwaukee and served as the library and media director for Sevastopol Schools in Door County. He is survived by his wife, **Janet (Messmer) '67**, and two children.

**1967 Andy Van de Ven**, of Long Lake, Minn., died April 30, 2022, at the age of 76. He worked as a professor at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. He was a consultant for many organizations, including the United Nations. He is survived by his wife, Martha, and two children.

**1968 Mary (Raisleger) Hughes**, of Kenosha, Wis., died March 6, 2022, at the age of 75. She worked as a social worker in the Kenosha Unified School District for 30 years. She is survived by her husband, John, and one child.

**1969 Fred Van Ark**, of Suamico, Wis., died March 7, 2022, at the age of 75. He served in the United States Army and is a Vietnam War veteran. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite, and two stepchildren.

**1969 Phil Pfeiffer**, of De Pere, died April 22, 2022, at the age of 84. He served in the United States Air Force. He worked as a nurse and hospital administrator, and later became a

restaurant owner. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine, and five children.

**1969 Mary (Look) Nick**, of Fond du Lac, Wis., died June 10, 2022, at the age of 75. She worked as a nurse at St. Agnes' Wound Clinic. She is survived by three children.

**1970 Arlynn (Ewald) Liberty**, of Libertyville, Ill., died Nov. 13, 2021, at the age of 73. She worked as a teacher at Darien Eisenhower Junior High School and Libertyville Highland Middle School. She is survived by her husband, Ronald, and one child.

**1970 Mark Miller**, of Milwaukee, died April 5, 2022, at the age of 73. He worked as an environmental planner for: Parsons Brinckerhoff, Parsons, EMCS, Collins Engineering and AECOM. He is survived by three children.

**1970 Ralph J. Micheline**, of Chicago, died May 13, 2022, at the age of 73. He established and ran a regional wine distribution business. He is survived by his wife, Camille, and one child.

**1971 Daniel Jaques**, of Omaha, Neb., died May 2, 2022, at the age of 72. He worked at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in the department of psychiatry as a research analyst and later as an IT specialist. He is survived by six siblings.

**1972 Glenn Madrigano Sr.**, of Kenosha, Wis., died July 17, 2022, at the age of 72. Starting when he was 12 years old, he worked for his family's beer business, C.J.W. Inc., and eventually became president. He is survived by his wife, Barb, and two children.



**1973 Diane (Snyder) Kramer**, of Minneapolis, died April 16, 2022, at the age of 85. She rose through Bellin, first as a nurse, to become the first dean of Bellin College of Nursing. She is survived by three children and one stepchild.

**1975 Thomas Doepker**, of Bull Valley, Ill., died May 29, 2022, at the age of 69. He worked at Advanced Seal Technology, which he founded. He is survived by his wife, Audrey, and four children.

**1977 John O'Brien**, of Winnetka, Ill., died July 9, 2022, at the age of 68. He was part of a third generation of O'Briens to work at R.J. O'Brien & Associates. He served in several capacities, including as CEO and as chairman. He is survived by his wife, **Patricia (Durkin) '78**, and four children.

**1978 Annette Miller Hamilton**, of Green Bay, died June 29, 2022, at the age of 85. She worked as an educator in piano, pedagogy and music theory. She served as an adjunct faculty member at Edgewood College and at St. Norbert. She is survived by her husband, Tom, and two children.

**1984 Peter Vandenberg III**, of Chicago, died June 27, 2022, at the age of 60. He is survived by his wife, Maria.

**1986 John Goldbach**, of Hartford, Wis., died July 12, 2022, at the age of 58. He sang and played lead guitar in several bands. He is survived by three children.

**1994 Brian St. Onge**, of Escanaba, Mich., died July 13, 2022, at the age of 59. He drove commercial buses across the country. He is survived by his sister and two nephews.

**2001 Jim Piontek**, of Green Bay, died June 13, 2022, at the age of 50. He was a partner in the family business, Encompass Vending. He is survived by his wife, Tara, and her two children.

**2009 James Lindlof**, of Mahtomedi, Minn., died July 25, 2022, at the age of 35. He is survived by his father and one sibling.

**2016 Roland "R.J." Couture Jr.**, of Alexandria, Va., died June 6, 2022, at the age of 28. He worked on the White House Initiative on American Indian & Alaska Native

Education at the U.S. Department of Education, as a special assistant in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior and privately as a legislative associate at Spirit Rock Consulting. Most recently, he was a program analyst at the U.S. Department of Defense. He is survived by his parents and three siblings, including **William Couture '19**.

## Class Notes

**1949 The Rev. Bob Finnegan** celebrated his 70th jubilee on June 6, 2022, the Feast Day of St. Norbert.

**1957 The Rev. Bill Ribbens** celebrated his 60th jubilee anniversary in 2022.

**1958 James Lahiff** published his book, "A Young Life in Your Hands," a light-hearted tale of a boy growing up in northern Wisconsin.

**1962 Mary (Jordan) Meiser**, emerita professor of English at UW-Eau Claire, moved to Denver in 2019. She now splits her time between there and Palo Alto, Calif. to be with her six grandchildren, ages 15-21.

**1964 Jerry Schaefer** was featured in Digital

Journal for his new book "Isn't It Kind of Funny...". Schaefer says, "[The book] attempts to point the reader in a direction that may simplify life. Or at least make it more manageable. For example, time can be viewed differently. If someone can experience the present moment, the past and the future can recede into the background. Death can be a beginning as well as an ending."

**1973 Paul Jakubowski** was inducted into the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame. Jakubowski played hockey for SNC from 1971 to 1973. After graduation from St. Norbert, he coached several teams, and for 16 years, until his retirement in 2019, he was the executive director of the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois.

**1976 The Rev. Bill Hoffman** has retired to senior priest status. His vocational journey was featured in an article published by The Compass. He has served at parishes in Appleton, Wis., in the Dominican Republic and in Green Bay.

**1976 Kerry (Ryan) Shay** retired after 38 years of leading faculty as an English department chair and teaching

British literature and composition. She has now joined the staff at Aurora University as a professional writing tutor and coach.

**1981 Jim Garvey** was inducted into the Eau Claire (Wis.) Regis High School Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2022 for his accomplishments in football.

**1982 Sam Gabuzzi** retired as an executive officer for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Intergovernmental & External Affairs, Office of the Secretary. He served for 28 years in the department.

**1983 Martha Cranley** has been hired as the state director for AARP Wisconsin.

**1984 Tim Michels** won the Wisconsin Republican primary in his bid to serve as governor of Wisconsin.

**1985 Thomas Groleau** has been promoted to the director of the Business Analytics Center at the University of Kentucky's Gatton College of Business & Economics.

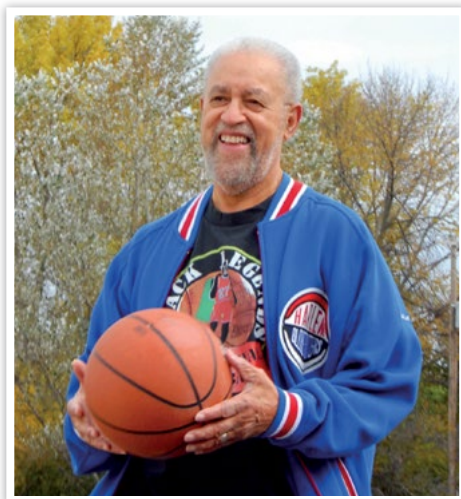
**1985 Deacon Scott Wiese** has taken on the role of director of

administration at St. Joseph Parish & School in Grafton, Wis.

**1986 Dan Peterson** is the latest chair of the Wisconsin Bankers Association.

**1987 Natalie Campbell-Deakin** retired in 2021 after a 20-year career as a train operator with London Underground Limited in London. Campbell-Deakin applied for a position with the London Underground as a change of pace. She envisioned working the ticket counter or in customer service, but then she was asked, "Have you ever thought about being a train operator?" She hadn't, but thought it sounded great. One of very few women operators at the time, she took delight in seeing more and more women join her. She said, "It's a unique job, and it's fun to tell people what I did."

**1990 Sarah (Mullins) Griffiths** is now an attorney with LOTUS Legal Clinic, a non-profit organization providing free, comprehensive legal services to victims of sexual violence, labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Griffiths notes that labor trafficking in industries such as



## Larger than life

**Chuck Holton '52** died April 19, 2022 (see page 28). From sporting stand-out, at St. Benedict the Moor High School in Milwaukee, St. Norbert and for the Harlem Globetrotters, to social work and cultural advocate, Holton's many talents make for a rich legacy. The Holton Multicultural Center stands on campus in his honor. In a Green Bay Press-Gazette article celebrating Chuck Holton's life, **Michael Holton '66** recalls his brother's time breaking barriers at St. Norbert College and as executive director of House of Peace in Milwaukee: "He just did wonderful things for people."

Holton's classmate **Jim Van Straten '55**, writes: "He and I were side-by-side in the blocks prior to the start of the 100-yard dash. ... The starter's gun went off and then quickly went off again. I had false-started, something that I was prone to do. A second false start would result in disqualification. Chuck called me aside and said, 'Jim, settle down. You have all the potential in the world, but false starts are a big-time problem for you. Do not try to anticipate the gun. Just react when you hear the sound of the gun. If you can train yourself to do that, you will break my record.' We then got back in the blocks, and the next start was a good one. Chuck Holton finished the race in first place, and I was tied for second."

"Chuck helped me in so many ways. He was my mentor. He was also prophetic. In 1954, when Chuck was in his third year with the legendary Harlem Globetrotters, I ran the 100-yard dash in 9.85 seconds, breaking his record."



YEAR OF DEER



"We're always busy. We stay open until the end of October. ... We have pre-schoolers with their grandparents, and honeymooners for the fall colors. In September the deers' antlers shed. It looks bloody but it doesn't hurt them. We have elk too, and their antlers are enormous. It doesn't hurt to cut them, it's like a fingernail. They go into pens for the winter, and the prize bucks breed the does.

"My favorite season is in May and June when the fawns come. That is just wonderful."

Wisconsin Deer Park is open from late April to late October. More at wisdeerpark.com.



## Have love, will travel

**A**nn Tollaksen '66 did not expect to run a deer park and petting zoo. She's allergic to most animals. "I had eight years of shots and I'm still scared to pet the deer myself," she says. In college, she was into rock 'n' roll and the bright lights. A French major, she was eager to travel after graduation, first stop: Paris.

Her time at SNC was memorable but being among the first classes of women had its challenges: "Your sorority house was where you had fun. I wanted to do a sociology major, but once I got into it, I didn't like it and switched back to French. I was frustrated by the choice of careers for girls then – it was teaching or being a secretary – and thought if I could just go to France and speak French, I'd know what I wanted to do."

Waitressing in Wisconsin Dells the summer before junior year, she met Peter Tollaksen on a river beach and replaced dreams of the Left Bank for married life. "We met in June and decided to get married by August. Peter had had an honorable discharge from the army and went back to school in Stevens Point, and I went back to finish at St Norbert. I did my last French course by correspondence," she says.

In 1970, the couple took over the family business, Wisconsin Deer Park, founded by Peter's father in 1952. They raised three children in a house built by her father-in-law inside the deer park.

"We were the caretakers; we were there day and night. It was perfect for a young family. I had the luxury of being a stay-at-home mom in a beautiful place, with Peter working close by. I worked on the business side. I set up and ran our gift shop. ...

"Traveling was hard for us for a while – those animals don't go anywhere. We took the children to Florida in winter when the park was closed. Later, Peter and I traveled all over the U.S. and everywhere we went we would check out the petting zoos. I finally got to Paris for a day many years later, when we were on a cruise. I knew how to ask where the bathrooms were, but I was scared to get it wrong."

Her husband died in the early days of the pandemic in March 2020. Their middle son Aaron now runs the park, and Ann lives only a short drive away. "I'm still the boss, but I'm not among the visitors all the time. I'd like to travel more now. Go back to France and speak French."

Route '66



"There were five boys to every girl," Ann Tollaksen '66 recalls of her co-ed years at St. Norbert. "My best friend Judy (Seidl) Maes '66 and I; we roomed together for four years through thick and thin. ... When I was a freshman, the senior girls had to wear dresses and pantyhose at dinner. My class was a rebel class: The boys wouldn't wear jackets and we wouldn't wear nylons, but we still wore skirts, never pants. We had a uniform in our sorority house too: a navy pencil skirt and white shirt which we wore for our meetings."



agriculture are serious concerns in northeast Wisconsin.

"Many of the individuals I represent at LOTUS are foreign national victims of labor trafficking seeking guidance and support on reporting their exploitation to law enforcement, and/or assistance in applying for U.S. immigration status as victims of trafficking," Griffiths says.

**1990 Kevin Revolinski** received a 2021 PenCraft Award for Literary Excellence for his book "Stealing Away: Stories" and released a third edition of his book "Hiking Wisconsin" in June 2022. Author Nickola Butler says, "'Stealing Away' is a lush, shimmering collection, at once globe-trotting and far-afiel, and also somehow as intimate and quotidian as any small hometown."

**1992 Dave Pietrzak** has been named the vice president of sales for Werner Electric Supply.

**1992 Stacy De Coster** was awarded Feminist Criminology's Dr. Helen Eigenberg Best Article of the Year Award for her article, "Unifying Theory & Research on Intimate Partner Violence." De Coster is chair-elect of the American Sociological Association's Crime, Law & Deviance Section, and she serves on the editorial boards for Criminology, Social Currents, and Society & Mental Health.

**1994 Lisa Kahn Ortscheid** was appointed the director of sales and marketing at Security-Luebke Roofing Inc.

**1995 Michelle (Hitzemann) Keffer** has been promoted to the position of

manager of marketing communications for Security Health Plan of Wisconsin.

**1995 Brian Foster** received an honorable mention at the London Book Festival for his book "Pat Randolph Mysteries: The Case of Lori Larkin."

**1996 Vince Vitrano** has been inducted into the Dennis H. Alldridge Special Olympics Wisconsin Hall of Fame. *Vitrano, host of Wisconsin Morning News in Milwaukee, was featured in @St. Norbert in June 2022.*

**1997 Karyn Dossinger** joined the faculty of the Quinlan School of Business, Loyola University Chicago, as assistant professor of management.

**1999 Melanie Fonder Kaye** has been appointed deputy assistant to the secretary of defense for strategic engagement in the U.S. Department of Defense. From 2011 to 2014, she served as director of communications for the first lady, Jill Biden. In her new role, she "connects the American public to their military by overseeing the Department of Defense's vision for strategic community engagement and public outreach."

**1999 Marci Braun** received the award for Large Market Program Director of the Year for her work with WUSN-FM in Chicago.

**1999 Bradley Bauter** has been promoted to director of educational programs, Canada, with International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans in Brookfield, Wis. He oversees program planning and design for pension and benefit training across Canada and the United States.

**1999 Jay Hodgson** has been promoted to full professor of biology at Georgia Southern University.

**2002 Chris Becker** celebrated his 20th season as soccer coach at Preble High School in Green Bay.

**2005 Ashley Prange** has been named to the Write On, Door County board of directors.

**2005 Christina Clark**, an elementary music specialist for the Green Bay Area School District, was featured as a contestant on "Jeopardy!" on April 27, 2022.

**2005 Todd Tomalak** was hired as the principal of building products at Zonda.

**2005 Chris Graham** was appointed as the director of marketing for Bartolotta Restaurants.

**2005 Jeremy Doughty**, resident director for University Studies Abroad Consortium in London, published a chapter, "Ethical Community Engagement in Global Contexts" in NAFSA's Guide to Education Abroad for Advisers & Administrators.

**2006 Irene Gorman** has been promoted to head of digitalization in R&D at BASF's dispersions and pigments division in Ludwigshafen, Germany.

**2006 Ashley Hendricks** was featured in The Compass in a spotlight on her teaching and volunteer work.

**2006 Andrew McIlree** has been appointed to the board of directors for the National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation.

**2007 Troy Boisjoli** has been appointed to the

technical advisor committee for Kraken Energy.

**2007 Don Norwick** received his master's degree in educational leadership from UW-Superior. He has accepted a position at Wilmot (Wis.) Union High School as associate principal for curriculum and instruction.

**2008 Sara (Shawanokasic) LaBarge** was honored as the Wisconsin Outstanding Indian Educator of the Year through the Wisconsin Indian Education Association for her contributions to the quality and opportunities in education for American Indian people in Wisconsin. LaBarge is currently the director of strategic partnerships at Native Forward Scholars Fund, a national non-profit whose mission is working to fulfill the unmet need of Native students in the U.S.

**2008 Rachael Mayo** has joined Evergreen Park (Ill.) Community High School's faculty as a registrar and administrative assistant.

**2009 Stephanie Birmingham** received a 2022 Relentless Badger Award for her work and advocacy for people with disabilities. "Stephanie has been with Options for over five years, and although she only works part time, she advocates full time, and she's done a tremendous amount for the disability community, voting rights, ADA accessibility and many other things. Stephanie is truly relentless," said Joe Theis, executive director of Options For Independent Living Inc. Birmingham recently stepped down from her position of advocacy coordinator at Options to begin her own counseling practice, Birmingham Counseling and Consulting, LLC.

**2011 Christy (Culen) Martino** has been named principal of Promise Road Elementary School in Noblesville, Ind.



## Walking the world from home

"I like to stay in half-way decent shape, so I do what I can. And that is walking," says **Katherine Colclasure '59**.

About two years ago, Colclasure began her first Conquerer Challenge. She has since walked the Ring Road in Iceland, the flower route in Holland and Route 66, among others. And she does it all without venturing too far from her apartment in Appleton, Wis.

Colclasure graduated from St. Norbert College with a bachelor's degree in English and fondly remembers the **Rev. Patrick Butler '22**, who also gave her her first job. She taught English for four years and then became a guidance counselor for the next 42 years, retiring in 2009.

The Conquerer Challenge works through an interactive mobile app. "It shows you pictures where you're walking, and you can see where others are walking. ... We have a walking trail around my home; it's about a mile long. And in the winter, I go walk in the mall," Colclasure says.

Besides a reason to stay active and explore the world, Colclasure looks forward to the prize when she finishes a route. "I love to get a great, big, huge, fancy medal. I have a rack on my wall filled with them," she says. "It makes me feel like I really accomplished something."

**2011 Christy (Culen) Martino** has been named principal of Promise Road Elementary School in Noblesville, Ind.

**2011 Kelsey Faust-Kubale** was appointed

clerk for the Town of Clayton in Winnebago County, Wis.

**2012 Scott Fitzgerald** has been appointed director of athletics at Aurora Central Catholic High School (Ill.).



# Alumni Award Winners 2022

St. Norbert College annually celebrates alumni who exemplify Norbertine ideals in their daily lives.

## Alma Mater Award *(posthumous)*



**Corporal Daniel Groves '88** (1967-2019) embodied the Norbertine value of service to community in his nearly 12 years of service with the Colorado

State Patrol, and in his passionate involvement with his church.

## Distinguished Achievement Award in Business



**Brian Blaha '96** has shown true dedication to lifelong learning and leadership in his 26 years of growing and developing the company Wipfli from

a small firm to a multimillion-dollar global enterprise.

## Distinguished Achievement Award in Business



**Kristi (Konkol) Ross '90** has exemplified the St. Norbert spirit of *communio* in her life, giving back to the greater Chicago area community

in various ways while leading several organizations, including as CFO of thinkorswim and as co-founder of tastytrade.

## Young Alumni Award



**Holly (Nickerson) Lynn '15** has exemplified a life of vocation serving as a youth development volunteer in several places, most notably in

Ukraine with the Peace Corps.

Read more about our award winners. [snc.edu/magazine](https://snc.edu/magazine)

**2012 Angela Klingensmith** completed her first year as a faculty member and psychologist for family medicine residents. She has helped spearhead the diversity, equity and inclusion subcommittee and works at Washington State University and the University of Washington teaching medical students about behavioral health in primary care.

**2013 Amanda Garcia** has become the first Mexican American executive director of Casa Alba Melanie, Green Bay's Hispanic resource center.

**2014 Patrick McCadden** has been named assistant coach for the Green Bay Gamblers.

**2015 Lauren (Kleiman) Schumacher** has received a Golden Apple Award, which recognizes high-quality educators in Greater Green Bay in areas of professionalism, leadership and innovation. Schumacher, a social studies teacher at Luxemburg-Casco (Wis.) High School, is the first teacher in school-district history to receive the award.

**2016 Matthew Ferch** graduated from Sacred Heart Seminary School of Theology with a dual degree of a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts.

**2016 Elizabeth (Pfantz) Hokamp** received her master's degree in theology from St. Norbert College.

**2018 Kathryn Colby** graduated from Springfield College (Mass.) with a master's degree in clinical mental health and athletic counseling. She will start her career in college counseling at UW-Whitewater.

**2018 Anna Huck** has been hired by Envision Greater Fond du Lac (Wis.) as an events specialist.

**2018 Maggie McConaha** was interviewed on CNN about her opinion piece for the news publication Education Week, and her perspective on gun reform.

**2018 Robbie Dombrowski** has been offered a position at Cornell College as the head baseball coach.

**2019 Nicolas Schmudlach** graduated with a master's degree in library and information science, and now works as an adult services librarian at the Pewaukee (Wis.) Public Library.

**2019 Anne Geenen** earned her Master of Science in Industrial Organizational Psychology from Marian University. She now works as a total rewards specialist in Milwaukee.

**2020 Avery Rhenwick** and his clothing line 4th N Long were featured in a Green Bay Press-Gazette article about groups supporting minority-owned businesses in northeastern Wisconsin.

**2022 Molly Freye** is employed as a diversity, equity and inclusion rotational specialist at CUNA Mutual Group in Madison.

**2022 Lucca Kenyon** has joined the World Mission Ministries team at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

**2022 Mike Otzelberger** has accepted a position with the State of Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection as an advanced food scientist. She had worked for the City of Milwaukee

Health Department for the past 10 years.

Competitors in this year's Boston Marathon included SNC Women's Track & Field's **Paulina (Puskala) Fote '17** and St. Norbert College Athletics Hall of Fame inductee and nine-time All-American **Jenny (Scherer) Benkert '10**. Benkert ran her second fastest marathon at the event.

**Amy (Hrdlicka) '11** and **Eric Gale '12** tell the story of their business, Anchored Roots Vineyard & Winery, in Egg Harbor, Wis., in SNC's Alumni-Owned Businesses Spotlight. The couple took a leap of faith into the venture from positions at Washington's largest winery (Eric) and in the hospitality field at The Harley-Davidson Museum (Amy). Amy says, "When Eric brought up the idea of moving to the West Coast to study viticulture, we could see our future falling into place. We'd continue our education, gain hands-on experience in the industry, and return home to start our own vineyard and winery. It was a natural fit with my background."

"Despite our successful careers, our goal was always to come home to Wisconsin. In 2020, after our first son, Henry, was born, we felt the time was right to make the move. We purchased 38 acres in Egg Harbor and started our vineyard. We planted three acres that first year, and then last spring, we planted three more."

The Gales anticipate the completion of their winemaking facility and tasting room by this summer.

SNC welcomes three alums back to campus in the admissions' office: **Maira Rodriguez '14**, **Kyra Kronberg '20** and **Kennedy Kiecker**

**'22. Rodriguez'** previous stops as an admission counselor include Augustana College (Ill.) and Marquette University. She will assist students in northern Chicago and the western U.S. Kronberg has spent the past two years in Montana, working for AmeriCorps and Montana Gear Up, an initiative helping to gain awareness and readiness for undergraduate programs within the Montana University System. Kronberg will assist students in western Wisconsin, Minnesota and the central U.S. Kiecker will work with students in southern Wisconsin and southern Chicago.

## CORRECTION

We offer sincere apologies for using a photo in error in our feature on "The First Women of St. Norbert" in our Summer 2022 issue. We celebrated the achievements of **Meg (Perkins) Vander Zanden '64** – the first SNC student to study abroad – but the picture we used was of her sister **Mary Grace Perkins**, who attended SNC 1959-60.

Here's a photo of Meg herself, taken from the 1964 edition of the Des Peres yearbook.



**Share your news!** Submit your item at [snc.edu/go/keepintouch](https://snc.edu/go/keepintouch).

Keep track and connect with fellow alumni on Facebook. [facebook.com/sncalumni](https://facebook.com/sncalumni)



## Anchors aweigh

I write this, my last note to readers, in farewell mode. This will be the last issue to leave harbor under my name, although I'll be around for a few months yet to help make our spring magazine ready. And this ship sails on, safe in the hands of the most talented crew I have ever had the privilege of working alongside.

I maintain that college editors have the best jobs in the whole world. They'll never fear running out of stories to tell and, if they should ever want to be reminded of that fact, they need only turn to the pages of alumni notes in their own magazines. But, after 61 mag issues, 211 e-newsletters and 10 books, it's time for a new editor to take the helm. I leave SNC to lead a new publishing adventure – but I'll maintain a high level of interest in your own adventures, too. I'll still be a subscriber to this magazine and, like you, I'll be turning first to those Alumni Notes pages. Let me sign off, then, with what's become my watchword and clarion call: Send in your alumni notes!

*Susan Allen*

## WORDS & PICTURES

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## TALK TO US!

We love to hear from you, and rely on you to keep us posted. You can find us at [snc.edu/magazine](https://snc.edu/magazine), on Facebook, via [magazine@snc.edu](mailto:magazine@snc.edu) or 920-403-3048, or at:

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Dave Heilman Photography

## Philosophy rocks

When **David Duquette** (Philosophy, Emeritus) returned to campus this summer he didn't bring deep-thinking authors in his wake: He brought his guitar and the nine other members of the band. *Alive Again: A Tribute to Chicago* played Alumni Night at the Knights on the Fox concert Aug. 2. Duquette (pictured, left) started playing guitar at 14, got into his first band at 16, and played all through high school, college and grad school. He got back into the music scene after retirement, in particular by doing many open jams at the Blue Opus in Green Bay.

Duquette is not the only member of the tribute band with SNC connections. **Tony Giovanni** '92 is on percussion and vocals.

## Cuppa Joe? Cuppa Tom?

"Campus North" extends past the Abbey (the Abbey Bar, that is) and into Main Street, De Pere, where a couple of independent coffee shops with a college-town vibe serve as watering hole, forum, workspace and/or meeting place for members of the SNC community. Among the pros who've become fixtures at Luna Coffee Roasters is **Tom Bolin** (Theology & RS). His allegiance hasn't gone unnoticed by the café's owners: This summer they created an Arabic blend in honor of "our friend, Dr. Bolin at SNC, one of our longest tenured [!] customers."





# Calendar



SNCTalks returns March 24 for its second year, with its TEDtalk-style presentations highlighting the unique passions, talents and endeavors of SNC student, faculty, staff and alumni speakers. (Missed last year's event? You can still enjoy the talks at [snc.edu/snctalks](http://snc.edu/snctalks).)

🐁 For details of these events and more, visit [snc.edu/events](http://snc.edu/events).

## December

- 2 Festival of Christmas Concert
- 3 Breakfast with Santa
- 4 Brass & Organ Christmas Spectacular
- 15-18 Christmas with the Knights

## January

- 10 "Innovate: What Are You Waiting For?": a CEO Breakfast Series event with Paul Snider of KBX Logistics
- 26-29 "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee": a Knight Theatre production

## February

- 23 "No Matter What: Habitation and the Great Overheat": a Killeen Chair lecture from Catherine Keller of Drew University

## March

- 22 "Climate Migration": A Great Decisions lecture from **Mark Bockenbauer** (Geography)
- 23 "Leading Through the Great 'Exploration'": a CEO Breakfast Series event with Emma McTague of Oshkosh Corporation
- 24 SNCTalks 2023

## April

- 27 "Covenant and Climate," a Killeen Chair lecture from Ellen Davis of Duke Divinity School



## A measure of your support

St. Norbert's bold Support What Matters campaign is securing the college's future, one gift at a time. This effort is in service of an ambitious goal: to preserve, enhance and amplify the things that make St. Norbert College unique – and uniquely important – in a complex and ever-changing world.

## Recommended viewing: Doubling up, twice over

Two new roommates in Mad-Lor were each part of the St. Norbert family long before they arrived as members of the Class of 2026. By chance, both their moms and both their dads also attended SNC – and the moms were roommates themselves, back in the day. Our move-in day video includes the story of **Will Yurjevich '26** (mom and dad **Amy '97** and **Rob '97**), now rooming with **Shamus McMahon '26** (mom and dad **Jenn '97** and **Scott '96**). Find out more at [youtube.com/stnorbertcollege](http://youtube.com/stnorbertcollege).



### Banner occasion

If you're a guest speaker at a Norman Miller Center event, chances are good that you'll walk away with a unique memento. Assistant director **Jill Olson** turns the vinyl banners that promote the center's thought-provoking lectures into on-point bags that she gifts to their presenters. Remaining banner material is also grist to Olson's mill: She uses it to make pencil cases for the center's student staff.



## Parting Shot / SNC Day

“May your heart always be joyful, may your song always be sung; and may you stay forever young.” – *Bob Dylan*

