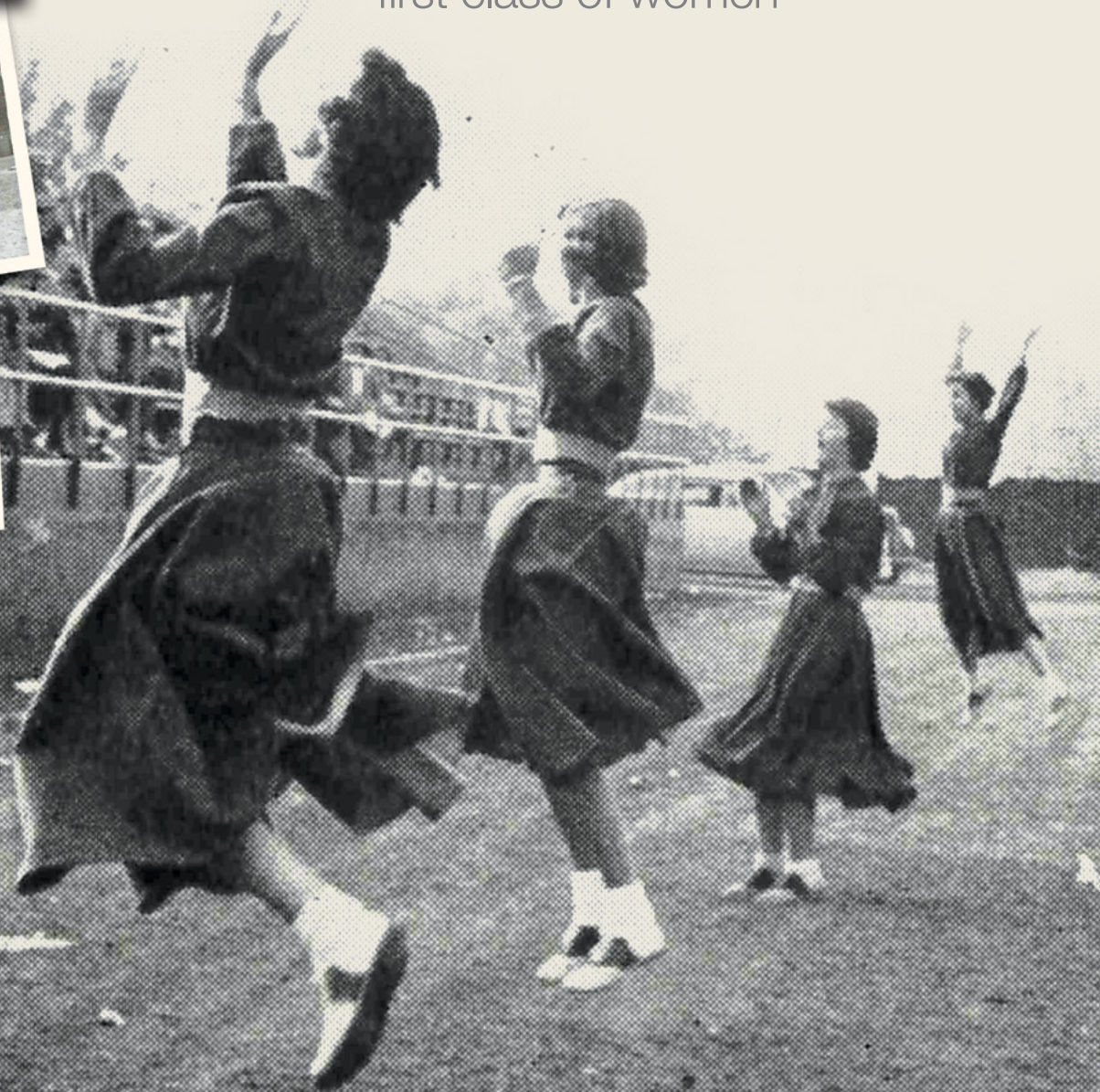


St. Norbert

College Magazine | Summer 2022

Seventy Years Ago

A look back with St. Norbert's first class of women



In Print

Vol. 54, No. 2, Summer 2022



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St. Norbert College had its share of highlights during 2021-22, its first year in the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC). The Green Knights won seven NACC titles and swept the men's and women's All-Sports Awards championships.



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The **Rev. Onwu Akpa** lists neuroeconomics as his favorite class to teach, but he's been longing to introduce a new course, which will debut in the fall semester. "I will be teaching Issues in African Development. I already have 14 students signed up," says the Norbertine.



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From the international office in Rome, **Jill Drzewiecki '99** and her coworkers at the Jesuit Refugee Service assist forcibly displaced populations in 57 countries.

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Cover Story



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The First Women of St. Norbert

It's been 70 years since the first women formally admitted to St. Norbert as co-eds stepped onto campus to claim their place as part of the brand-new Class of 1956. They formed a very considerable minority at a school that had been men-only since its founding in 1898. We celebrate those pioneers who began it all.

On our cover: Outside the classroom, the women coordinated and attended dances throughout the year, including at Homecoming, and demonstrated their school spirit at basketball and football games. A cheerleading group formed their sophomore year.



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Going, But Not Leaving

After five years at the helm of St. Norbert College, **President Brian Bruess '90** departs, leaving the school with firm financial security, a lively sense of its unique Norbertine, Catholic and liberal arts mission, and empowered faculty, staff and student bodies.



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The Stinski Effect

An early start at St. Norbert helped launch a journey in scientific discovery, its benefits matched by a generous vision for science education.

Online

A sampling of related content available at snc.edu/magazine.



In four years: The Class of 2022 (**page 4**) celebrates its biggest achievement yet.



In tribute: As the college prepares for its ninth president (**page 7**), we mark the signal achievements of its eighth: a look back at the Bruess years.



In pioneering spirit: Seven decades after they first arrived on campus (**page 20**), we invited **Ann (Morneau) Hollenback '56**, **Cathy (Schmitz) Jacobs '56** and **Nancy (Wahl) Riley '56**, members of the college's first class of women, back to campus to take a look back at those days.



In the name of science: The Gehl-Mulva Science Center at St. Norbert facilitates a state-of-the-art education for developing scientists like **Olivia Bruni '23**, current holder of the Mark Stinski Award (**page 26**).



In retrospect: **Carol De Groot '62 (page 34)** sat down to reminisce with the **Rev. Jim Neilson '88** about a St. Norbert education that began at the old St. Joseph grade school on campus.



In nine minutes: A remarkable evening of TEDx-style presentations in March featured a slate of short talks (**page 34**) on the topic "Own Your Impact," one of the pillars of respect at SNC.

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**.

snc.edu/magazine





A degree of excitement

The four years of study are over and the undergraduate experience is about to end. Now the post-college world beckons, brimming with all hope and promise. On the brink of this next chapter, it's time for a jump for joy: The fun and friendships forged during the St. Norbert years merit their own celebration.



The Class of 2022 celebrates its biggest achievement yet.
snc.edu/magazine

Life lessons in a beloved community



Brian J. Bruess '90, eighth president of St. Norbert College, served 2017-2022. This summer, he will become the first joint president to lead the communities of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University.



Brian and his wife, **Carol (Sessler) Bruess '90**, (pictured here at the Norbertine Heritage Ball in 2018) were all-in for the entire Bruess presidency. The couple brings a spirit of caring, commitment and fun wherever they go.

My parents chose education as their vocations. They retired from Monroe High School in Wisconsin after more than 70 combined years of faithful and steady service as teacher, coach, teacher's aide, attendance secretary, bus driver, lunchroom supervisor, director of athletics, mentor, advisor and counselor – among a host of other responsibilities. Of all the roles, there was one Marylou (“ML”) and Clarence (“CJ”) took most seriously: that of parents – to their own four kids and spouses, and as parent-figures to thousands of others. In all they do, they have been guided by their faith, pragmatic wisdom, deep commitment to family, care for Mother Earth and service to the common good.

One gift of having two parents in education was spending our summers tent camping for weeks on end. Four Bruess kids, all within five years of age, made campsites our home base – often with three, four or five other families, many bigger than our own. Campground staff thought an entire rural Wisconsin middle school had arrived via the caravan of wood-paneled station wagons. Rain or shine, we hiked, fished, swam, water-skied, canoed and used the Wisconsin wilderness as our classroom and playground.

Our camping endeavors had a deep impact on all of us. The life lessons we learned are countless and profound, forming us as siblings, parents and the principled leaders we each have become – each in our own spheres, living out the values ML and CJ taught us by word and example. We learned everyone has a role. Each person and their contribution has value and dignity. We each are responsible for considering the common good and contributing to the positive lived experience of everyone we encounter. We were taught interdependence. That family and love matter more than any material goods. That empathy and humility are essential for leading a life well-lived. That collective effort is infinitely more powerful than individual effort, and it is always the difference between success or failure – in both camping and in life. We were taught our voices matter and our words have power. And that Mother Earth is our first family, and that we must offer her relentless care.

At the conclusion of each camp outing, we made sure our campsite was left better than we found it.

Serving the common good and contributing to camper solidarity, respecting and caring for nature, living life with integrity, and learning through a strong work ethic – all essential life lessons – were measured by how effectively our family packed up camp and by the level of satisfaction we each felt when Mom and Dad gave us the thumbs-up and we departed for home. It was the final punctuation mark to our family's journey into nature (at least until we headed out on our next outing, usually after just a few days back in Monroe to wash clothes, air out the sleeping bags and restock the metal Coleman coolers).

These last five years for Carol and me, coming back to our beloved St. Norbert College, have been a vocational journey not unlike camping. In year one, our community theme *Fiat Lux* (let there be light) illuminated a path. Like life, that path offered both glorious views and loose rocks, exposed tree roots, and some unexpected switchbacks that, as any hiker knows, demand careful footing. As our journey continued, we came upon multiple grand displays of communal unity, spotting over and again our common purpose: a focus on human flourishing. Rain and shine, our SNC students, faculty and staff gave the world an example of how a community can struggle together to overcome and thrive despite tremendous challenges. We showed the world how we can successfully navigate persistent disruption, becoming a national model of how to thrive through a global pandemic. Together we have been able to achieve uncommon success by staying true to and embodying our Catholic, Norbertine and liberal arts mission: ensuring the holistic development and flourishing of our students and caring for each member of this beloved community.

As Carol and I set off for the next steps of our vocational journeys, know of our enormous gratitude for the gift of walking with each of you. For the lessons you've taught us; for the ways you showed up for this community and each other; and for all you've encountered, overcome and accomplished: We thank you. As we pack up and scan this beautiful campus, preparing to go (but not leave!), we know one thing for sure: The SNC campsite is in better condition than when we arrived, thanks to you and the unity of this community.

SNC: birthplace of presidents



As **Brian Bruess '90** and **Jenn Bonds-Raacke** look back on the ways they and St. Norbert College have grown together, **Kevin Quinn**

(Economics, Emeritus) rounds out his term as president of Aquinas College and will return to St. Norbert this fall. Quinn took the helm at the Dominican foundation in 2017 after 23 years on the faculty at St. Norbert, including his tenure as founding dean of the Schneider School for Business & Economics on campus.

And St. Norbert has given Catholic higher education a fourth college president in **Andrew Manion '87**, now at Edgewood College, another Dominican foundation. Prior to his appointment as president of Edgewood, Manion presided over Marian University of Wisconsin, which is sponsored by the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes.



Leadership for the next chapter

As **President Brian Bruess '90** departs and St. Norbert College begins its search for its ninth president, the institution maintains its tradition of strong and visionary leadership.

The board has announced that **Sandy Odorzynski** (Economics, Emeritus) and **Mike Foley '84** will be co-chairing the presidential search process. The committee conducting the national search will be formed once campus listening sessions and surveys have been completed.

Fred Schmidt '75, new chair of SNC's board of trustees, says, “St. Norbert College is extraordinarily well-placed at this time to find its next leader. The college is strong and stable. We have a world-class faculty and continue to attract outstanding students who seek a unique liberal arts education grounded in Norbertine tradition. The campus community is looking forward to carrying its cherished mission and Catholic identity into an exciting future.

“Here at SNC, we've benefited from a succession of remarkable presidents, individuals who have made their impact not only on this campus but across Catholic higher education. We expect

to attract an exciting slate of candidates as the search develops.”

This summer sees **President Emeritus Tom Kunkel** return to SNC in an interim presidential role while **Sister Andrea Lee** joins the college as interim vice president for academic affairs (VPAA). Lee, just like Kunkel, brings to St. Norbert national recognition as a leader in Catholic liberal arts education; deep knowledge of the critical issues and challenges facing higher education; extensive experience with accreditation, assessment, and governance; decades of experience with equity, diversity and inclusion; and a deep love of Catholic higher education.

Meanwhile, the college bids farewell to two pivotal figures in its recent history: As eighth president **Brian Bruess '90** begins his tenure as inaugural joint president of the communities of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, VPAA and provost **Jenn Bonds-Raacke** departs to assume the presidency of Saint Martin's University.

The search for the college's permanent VPAA will take place under Kunkel's leadership.

IN TRUST

At its May 2022 meeting, the St. Norbert College Board of Trustees elected **Fred Schmidt '75** to succeed the **Rev. Andrew Ciferni '64** who is retiring as board chair. Schmidt is managing partner at Law Firm of Conway, Olejniczak & Jerry, S.C. He is married to another SNC alum, **Teresa (McMonagle) Schmidt '75**. The couple were honored with SNC's Alma Mater Award in 2004 for their services to the college.

Patti (Brash) McKeithan '71 was elected vice chair. McKeithan is retired from Miller Brewing Company, where she was the vice president for corporate affairs. She received the Alumni Business Achievement Award from SNC in 1998.

As the college prepares for its ninth president, we mark the signal achievements of its eighth: a look back at the Bruess years. (More on page 16.)

Together for good

The Scholars for Community-Engaged Vocation (SCEV) program for students committed to social justice and the common good has just completed its first active year on campus. The SCEV provides a program of workshops, retreats, service opportunities and social events alongside campus-based programs such as Navigate, TRIPS, the Michels Hall Service Program and various community-engaged courses. The intention is for students to build a network with fellow scholars, alumni and mentors, and reflect on and be supported in their commitment to becoming productive members of society.



Res hall revamp

A \$6 million investment to complete residence hall renovations bears fruit this summer as work proceeds on Sensenbrenner, Madeline/Lorraine (Mad/Lor), Bergstrom and Victor McCormick (VMC). The substantial updates under way include the installation of power supplies for air-conditioning units, new flooring, updated bathroom fixtures, LED lighting and intelligent fire-alarm systems. Room built-ins will be replaced with movable furniture along with other décor updates. Trash and recycling huts will be constructed for each hall.

The renovations will improve the residential experience for approximately 675 students, primarily those in their first and second years. The Children's Center will also see some updates in conjunction with work on Sensenbrenner.

Early career partnerships

The recently launched Natural Sciences Endowment fund made possible by donations from SNC trustees **John Corbett '85** and **Mike Foley '84** has had immediate impact, funding a new Natural Sciences Early Career Award. The inaugural award went to **Nick Mauro** (Physics) for his successful student-centered research program. Since arriving at SNC in 2019, Mauro has secured funding for eight student researchers and facilitated rare undergraduate opportunities at renowned Department of Energy sites such as the Advanced Photon Source and the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS). This summer he will be taking two physics research students, **Kyle Ruhland '25** and **Cordell Umland '25**, to the SNS for two significant week-long experiments.

Leadership

Shelly Mumma (Center for Student Engagement), has been elected chair of the 2022-23 board for the National Association for Campus Activities.

Altruism

David Poister (Chemistry, Environmental Science) explores the potential of religions to encourage empathy and altruism in "Human Evolution

and the Christian Call to Love," published in the Zygon Journal of Religion & Science.

Justice

Bob Pyne (Peace & Justice Studies) reviewed The Routledge History of Human Rights, edited by Jean H. Quataert and Lora Wildenthal, for the Human Rights Education Review.

Competition

Management Teaching Review has published "Lessons on the Resource-Based View and Generic Competitive Strategies From 'Kinky Boots: The Musical' " by **Lucy Arendt** (Business). The movie is invaluable, Arendt says, for teaching managers about issues including conflict resolution, diversity and generic competition strategies.

The dismantling of oppression

The Journal of Gods & Monsters has published "Monstrification through Displacement in Space and Time: Coloniality, Racism, Neoliberal Rhetoric of Time and Jordan Peele's Get Out" by **Gerardo Rodriguez** (Theology & RS).

Mentoring

Faculty and higher education administrators from marginalized groups who have sought mentorship or want to mentor others are addressed in an Academic Expressions article, "Falling Up: How



Fostering young talent

Grace Bediako '24 joins the first cohort in a sought-after new Advancement Diversity Internship Program offered by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges & Universities. The enriching summer experience offers a \$2,000 stipend and a \$3,000 scholarship to seven Wisconsin students of color. Bediako, a political science and international studies major from Ghana, will take part in a range of networking and learning opportunities to include WAICU's Internship Summit, as well as gaining 400 hours' paid work experience in the field of institutional advancement. She currently has a campus job in SNC's student engagement call center and has previously worked at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (where she obtained her associate degree in human resources management) as a student ambassador and office assistant.

to Develop BIPOC Leaders and Students in Higher Ed" by **John Miller** (Curriculum & Diversity).

Persuasion

An article by **Alexa Trumpy** (Sociology), "Based on a True Story: The Use of Conversion Stories in Social Movements," appears in the journal Social Movement Studies. Trumpy explores how converts to a movement can be its most vocal,

media-friendly and persuasive assets.

Flourishing

Danielle Geerling (Psychology) is co-author of new articles in The Journal of Happiness Studies ("Happy to Know You: An Examination of Subjective Well-Being and Partner Knowledge") and in Social Psychological & Personality Science ("To Pursue or Not Pursue STEM?").



Ain't no mountain high enough

"There may very well be a 50-foot inflatable obstacle course," said the Emmaus Center staff when advertising April's Springstravaganza, and it looks as though they delivered. The fun, free event pulled in the crowds – among them **Derek Elkins**, Protestant chaplain, and **Julia Johnson '23**, pictured here. The "backyard BBQ meets county fair" program also featured lawn games like giant Jenga and cornhole, food, ice cream treats, popcorn and throwback candy.

Fighting the good fight

You know, I don't allow complaining, I won't let anybody talk badly about anything. With me, it's all about being optimistic and positive. That's always how I've lived as a coach. As a team, it's all about knowing that we're going to get it done. And I treat my team as my extended family.

When I have recruits come on campus, I tell the parents that I will treat their student-athletes as if they were my daughters. I'll make sure they're well taken care of. I will make sure that they are doing well in school. I will also give them snacks of some sort. I will wash their clothes (because I am the equipment manager too!). I will look after them. And that's how I was living.

And then came the day when I found the lump.

I was like, whoa, what is this? Why is this happening? For once, I just said, why. Then I thought, okay, why not? And, more or less in that moment, I realized the date: It was the day that would have been my own mother's 100th birthday. She had had her own cancer journey. Somehow, I knew, then and there, that there'd be somebody I could depend on, helping me through all of this. As it turned out, it wasn't going to be only my mother.

One of the hardest things I had to do when I got the diagnosis was to tell my family. Because I know how they are. We care for each other so much, and we do have this issue where we cry very easily.

So that was the hardest thing. But then the next hardest thing was coming to school and telling the people I worked with – because we're like family, too.

And then I had to tell the team. All the girls were so supportive. We always talk, as a team, about the theme we should choose for the year. That year, the girls wanted to frame it around my cancer battle. What they came up with was, "Fight together, win together." They made it plain every day that they weren't just talking about softball. They helped in any way they could, every day. They brought me to tears a few times.

This all began in the summer of 2020. That year, we didn't start school until later in fall, and the fall sports were not competing because it was early in the pandemic. So, even though I

would have worked everything out – because I always do make things work out – I didn't have to be conflicted. I could rest, take care of myself, ... just put my mind with God to help me heal. I think that really helped a lot. And after that, then I'd get up and go to work, coaching my team. I wanted to show the team that I was strong enough, so I was still doing what I would normally do. I'd got this diagnosis, which was for a triple negative breast cancer, and I was just going to work through it.

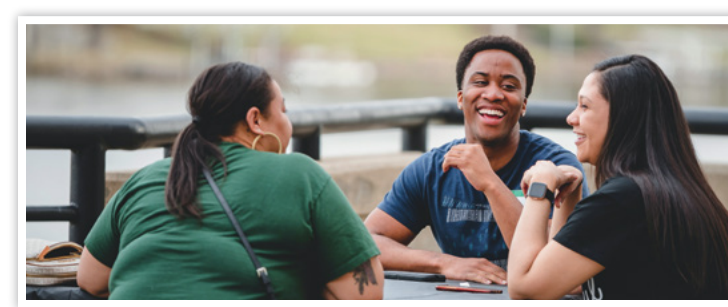
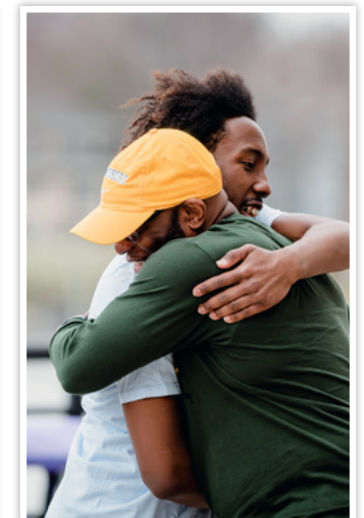
You have to fight, I guess. Fight for something that is good. All my teams have been different, and we've accomplished a lot of things. We've built the program up. We're always in the mix, we're always in the top of the conference. As a team, our goal is always to be in the championships and to win one. We don't ever want to fall short of that. This is a good way to fight.

We all have a right to have our pity parties, sometimes. But my mother had instilled in all eight of us the faith, and the work ethic, and I guess, too, the fight that you have to have every day, to go through life and win your battles. Every day is a battle, especially this day and age. Everybody's going through something. Keep the hope, keep the faith, that better days are coming.

I think of my mother all the time. I look at her prayer card every morning: "May the Angels have led you into Paradise, may the Martyrs receive thee at thy coming, and take thee to Jerusalem, the Holy City." I talk to her every day, and I thank her for everything that she's done. A lot of times now when I feel like I'm losing ... I don't want to say losing my way because I really don't do that, but when I'm kind of getting off track a little bit, I just say a prayer. I just say a prayer.

Through my treatment and recovery, I had so many people responding to my need – from former players, from players who I coached in high school. Just responding and recognizing the situation and letting me know they're praying, and loving what I'm doing. *Communio* is helping each other: caring for one another, and just being there for one another. And I think that was what I was experiencing through my cancer journey. I do feel that we have something so much bigger than ourselves here at St. Norbert, here in this world.

Coach JoAnn Krueger wrapped up her 25th season as head softball coach of the Green Knights this year. Krueger is also the equipment manager for the St. Norbert athletics department. She has been cancer-free since August 2021.



Black Student Union family gathering
The Black Student Union (BSU) holds a cookout for its current members every spring. When planning began for this year's celebration, members of the student org asked themselves, "Why stop there?" They invited all to share in a family dinner, with a special welcome for former black and multicultural students of SNC. The April event not only reunited old friends, it also gave BSU alumni and current SNC students the chance to compare experiences and talk about life on an increasingly diverse campus.

TEAM WORK



Green Knight runners made Division III history this spring when they turned in, unofficially, the best time ever run by a Division III 4x200-meter relay team. The record-breaking win came at the 112th Drake Relays held at the Iowa university this May.

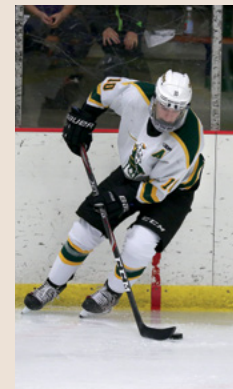
Running against mostly Division I competition, the quartet of **Maddie LeBrun '22**, **Audrey Makope '22**, **Daijah Brown '22** and **Sydney Zima '22** finished fifth in the event, logging a time of 1:40.05. The previous standard on record was 1:40.40 set on April 25, 2018 by Nebraska Wesleyan University. The time also erased a 32-year-old St. Norbert record by more than seven seconds.

Nice on the ice

The 2022 Sid Watson Award goes to senior forward **Peter Bates '22**. The award, voted on by the nation's NCAA Division III head coaches, is presented to the best player at the men's NCAA Division III level.

Bates enjoyed a banner senior season

for St. Norbert in 2021-22, registering 28 goals and 30 assists for 58 points in 31 games. He was selected as the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association Player of the Year for the second time in 2022. His 28 goals and 58 points this season are the second-most in Green Knight history, while his 30 assists are tied for third-most. Bates played in 123 games during his career, tied for the most ever at SNC. His career totals of 65 goals, 92 assists and 157 points are all third in school annals. His 15 career game-winning goals is a school record.



Bates is SNC's fifth Sid Watson Award winner. He joins forward **Rob Smillie '99**, forward **Maris Ziedins '03**, goaltender **Kyle Jones '08** and goaltender **David Jacobson '14** as Sid Watson Award winners. St. Norbert's five Sid Watsons are the most for any school.



Green Knights make their mark

St. Norbert swept both men's and women's All-Sports Awards championships its first year in the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC). The Green Knights won seven NACC titles in 2021-22, coming in men's soccer, women's cross country, men's basketball, men's and women's indoor track and field, and men's and women's outdoor track and field. St. Norbert had three other top-four finishes in the NACC, while its four sports that compete in other conferences – men's and women's hockey and men's and women's swimming – all had top-three finishes.

St. Norbert wrapped up its first NACC championship on Oct. 20 when men's soccer gained a 1-0 win over Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) at Schneider Stadium. The Green Knights narrowly missed an NCAA Tournament berth when it fell in a shootout in the NACC Tournament championship game.

The Green Knights gained their second championship when women's cross country ran to a 16-point win over Edgewood College on Oct. 30. **Joyana Tarsa '22** claimed the individual championship in the 6,000-meter race.

St. Norbert men's basketball clinched their 10th conference title of the last 13 years when the team earned a share of the NACC crown with its 74-49 win

on Feb. 16 at MSOE. It was a victory that also gave **Coach Gary Grzesk** the most men's basketball wins in school history.

Men's and women's track and field accounted for the other four NACC championships. Women's track and field dominated both championships, winning by more than 100 points at the indoor championship and by a whopping 158 points at the outdoor meet. The Green Knights won seven indoor and eight outdoor event championships on the women's side, en route to winning their overall 13th indoor and 12th outdoor conference team titles. Men's track and field had pulsating finishes to capture both the indoor and outdoor championships. St. Norbert won its first-ever indoor conference title when it clipped MSOE by one-half point in the team standings. At the outdoor championship, St. Norbert held a one-point lead going into the final event and held off MSOE again in the 4x400-meter relay to sew up its second outdoor championship with a five-point win. The Green Knights had three indoor and two outdoor event titles.

Women's basketball finished as NACC runner-up while going 19-8, and advanced to the championship game of the NACC Tournament. Women's golf's second-place finish at the NACC Championship matched a program high.

Chris Betcher
Alumni and Community Engagement

When I started in the alumni office in 2005, I sat at the desk Father Burke sat at. We had a lawyer's cabinet in there, and inside were a lot of things that used to sit on his desk. One of those things was this rubber stamp with his signature, and I always thought how amazing it was that we still had Father Burke's signature and the ability to use it. It's interesting just seeing what his handwriting looked like.

Anytime someone would come into the office, they would pull out his things and specifically that stamp. It's a neat archival object that made it through the course of time. I would imagine it was going on all sorts of documents, diplomas of students. I think there are probably a lot of things they did differently back then, a lot more personally. I wish I was here when Father Burke was; from what I'm

told he was a very tall, empowering, kind and gentle man. When I first started in the alumni office, I would hear stories about him from alums. They said he was strict, but always here for the students.

Alumni often say that everything looks so much different around here, but how much they feel at home. And you get a connection to the past in this building a lot, there's just a feeling when looking around and flipping through the old yearbooks. It brings you back to a different time, and I think that connection is key to St. Norbert.

Chris Betcher, associate director of alumni and parent relations, joined the college in 2001 and the alumni team in 2005.



MERCY RUN

Among the many Norbertines committed to supporting refugees in crisis is the **Rev. Karel Stautemas**, Norbertine brewer and provisor of Grimbergen Abbey in Belgium. At the start of the war in Ukraine, Stautemas undertook a lone humanitarian mission: He loaded up his VW bus with medicine and medical supplies and drove them to the Polish-Ukraine border, picking up eight passengers for the return journey. The refugees were offered care and shelter back at Grimbergen.

Norbertines on the move

■ The **Rev. Matt Dougherty '09** is to join the biology faculty at SNC after finishing his doctoral studies at Yale University.

■ The **Rev. Mike Brennan '99** will serve as new pastor of Old St. Joe's.

■ The **Rev. Jim Baraniak '88**, who was serving as house superior at the Holy Spirit House of Studies in Chicago, has been appointed pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes, De Pere.

■ The **Rev. Jim Neilson '88** takes up new responsibilities at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Neilson, a member of the art faculty at SNC for 29 years, most recently served on campus as special assistant to the president for mission integration.



Winning move for economist priest

The **Rev. Onwu Akpa** lists neuroeconomics as his favorite class to teach, but he's been longing to introduce a new course, which will debut in the fall.

"I will be teaching Issues in African Development. I already have 14 students signed up," says the Norbertine. "African voices are kind of mute when it comes to development problems. I want to look at why Africa is poor."

In addition to being a faculty member at SNC, Akpa (above) serves the college parish as a priest celebrant at Old St. Joe's. Growing up in Ngbowo, Nigeria, though, he envisioned a future on the soccer pitch. He came close to reaching a high level in the sport through recruitment to a first division club in his country, but was called to the priesthood.

Akpa traces his religious vocation back to high school where he formed a bond with a group of classmates who were engaged in their faith. "It was a group of people who were very pious," he says. "We stuck together. It was a state high school. At that time, the government had taken over the Catholic schools, so every school was public."

Akpa did win a soccer championship. "In Nigeria, unlike here, the major seminaries have competition in soccer, basketball, all kinds of sports, even cultural dancing," he explains. "In 1987, I was part of the winning team of the seminary I attended. It was a glorious time in my seminary career."

Formation for the priesthood began for Akpa with the Claretians in Nigeria. He then studied with the Missionaries of Africa, known as the White Fathers for the garments they wear. Akpa discovered the

Norbertines through the help of a friend, a Claretian priest. "I had a few pamphlets," he says with a laugh. "I trusted my friend and, of course, the Holy Spirit."

Akpa moved to the United States in 1998. He did his novitiate at the Abbey of Santa Maria De la Vid in Albuquerque, N.M., and then attended the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago for three years. The Windy City was his first introduction to cold weather.

"I love Chicago," he says. "Chicago has everything you need in the world: Lake Michigan, a big city, people from all over the world. If you want to eat any food from my village, I can get it in Chicago."

Akpa was ordained a deacon in Jackson in 2003. A year later, he was ordained to the priesthood at St. Norbert Abbey. He ministered in Mississippi and continued his studies before moving to the De Pere abbey in 2018. St. Norbert Abbey "is home," he says. He taught at schools in Nigeria and Zambia, so working with college students is a joy: "The students are taken care of here. I like it. [Universities and colleges] are bigger in Nigeria. We need to learn from here about how people are treated. They are human beings."

Akpa returns to Nigeria each year, usually in December, a festive time when family members gather.

He also looks forward to that time of year for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Watching soccer is a passion for Akpa. "What would I do without it," he says with a laugh. "Like a Westerner wakes up in the morning with hot coffee, if I don't get to watch soccer, I'm miserable."

A fond farewell to faculty



With curtain closing on the 2021-22 academic year, St. Norbert College celebrates the achievements and lasting legacies of several departing long-term faculty members.

Ikuko Torimoto (Japanese) is retiring after 31 years of teaching, mentorship and scholarship at SNC. The leader of the college's Japanese program, Torimoto (above) created courses that prioritized the intersections of culture and language. She has formed relationships with Japan's Sophia University and Tsuru University, growing the ESL program and enriching the international student body. Torimoto has published three books and has presented at more than 50 national and international conferences.

In his 35 years at SNC, **Tom Conner** (French) developed and taught nearly every course in the French program. He retires this year as a past SCOLA National Foreign Language Teacher of the Year Award winner and a champion of the sacred dignity of all persons and open dialogue with diverse cultures. Conner has edited three books and authored two, with another on the way.

In 2017, he was knighted in the Ordre des Palmes Académiques, France's highest national order for academics and figures in the world of culture.

Michael Rosewall (Music) retires after a distinguished career at SNC that began 30 years ago as choir director. He has since

taught voice, music theory and music history, and served as an emergency accompanist for students. He spearheaded the music department's adoption of "comprehensive musicianship." He has served as the associate academic dean for the college and on the boards of Next Stage and the Fine Arts Institute at Green Bay East High School. Rosewall started the beloved Knight Theatre program, an opportunity for students to produce musical theatre.

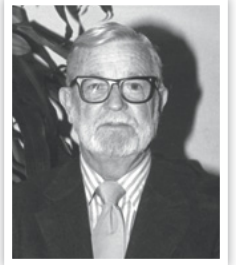
Over more than three decades at SNC, **Paul Johnson** (Philosophy) has served as highly regarded teacher, engaged scholar and trusted administrator. A teacher deeply committed to Norbertine pedagogy, he has also long inspired students with his passionate and meticulous engagement with the philosophical corpus. He retires with a long list of scholarly accomplishments, spanning the history of philosophy from Plato to Wittgenstein and with applications for medical ethics, administrative leadership and pedagogy.

The **Rev. Jim Neilson '88** (Art, Mission) departs SNC having left an indelible mark on the hearts, minds and artistic works of thousands of students, alumni, staff and his fellow faculty members. He joined the art faculty in 1993, became administrator of Old St. Joe's parish in 2015, and most recently served as the special assistant to the president for mission integration.

TOM PHELAN

1923-2022

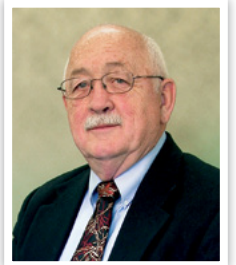
Tom Phelan (Philosophy, Emeritus), of Fort Collins, Colo., died April 13, 2022, at the age of 98. After serving in World War II on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, he attended Saint Louis University. He attained the rank of lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve. Phelan taught at St. Norbert from 1950 until his retirement in 1993, and **Abbot Joel Garner '62** would officiate at his memorial service, May 14. Phelan is survived by his brother and five children.



JOHN PHYTHON

1942-2022

John Phythyon (Biology, Emeritus) of Kennebunk, Maine, died Feb. 11, 2022, at the age of 79. Numerous St. Norbert students began their scientific careers as his undergraduate research partners. He retired from the science faculty in 2007 after more than 30 years' teaching. "His sense of humor, generosity, and professionalism will be missed by all," said the **Rev. Jim Neilson '88**. Phythyon is survived by his wife, Nancy, and two sons.



ERIC BLUMREICH

1972-2022

MBA student **Eric Blumreich**, CEO at Boys & Girls Club of Door County, died Feb. 1, 2022, at the age of 49. A former SNC staff member, he is mourned by classmates and colleagues. He is survived by his wife, Jodie, and two daughters.



BETSY FOLEY

1936-2022

St. Norbert College Magazine honors the memory of its former editor **Betsy Foley**, who died May 18, 2022, at the age of 85. Foley joined the college in 1980 as writer and editor, and her 18-year career at SNC included tenure as director of communications/media relations. She is survived by a brother and two sisters.

Going, but not leaving

By Eric Schreiber, Associate Editor



Mission



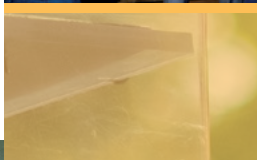
A new story-telling initiative, SNCtalks, amplifies the voices of the community.



Student focus

Safe campus

A \$300,000 VAWA grant from the U.S. DOJ powers the college's response to gender-based violence.



Embracing and enriching the student experience, a hallmark of the Bruess presidency.



Diversity and inclusion

In response to a suggestion from SNC students, the Menominee flag now flies above campus.



Twenty-two years of preparation, including 12 years of true discernment, instilled **President Brian Bruess '90** with the confidence and deep understanding of student development to lead his beloved alma mater. After five years at the helm of St. Norbert College, he departs this summer, leaving the school with firm financial security, a lively sense of its unique Norbertine, Catholic and liberal arts mission, and empowered faculty, staff and student bodies. No small accomplishments that undergird the institution as it continues its dedication to human flourishing.

Bruess isn't busy just tying off loose ends; he's powering through to the finish line with the same vigor and enthusiasm he and his wife, **Carol Bruess '90**, felt when they arrived back on campus in 2017. "It's a very palpable, memorable feeling. I had never in my wildest dreams imagined that I'd have a chance to be president of my alma mater, the place where Carol and I met, the place that shaped us and formed us," Bruess says. "Thinking back to that time there was a mix of anticipation and excitement for the opportunity, but also a weightiness because this must be successful."

Securing a bright future

The college was in great shape when Bruess took his post. **President Thomas Kunkel** led tremendous successes in facility improvements, and the donor base was energized to support his work. Bruess, in his turn, was tasked with leading something less concrete: a pivot to funding the college's endowment, and with it, maintaining the college's ability to live out its mission and serve students for the next 125 years. The endowment campaign was publicly launched May 19, 2022, and is well on its way to being fulfilled – its success owing to a dedication to speaking on human terms.

Bruess says, "I try to center what we do in really human terms. When we're talking about human flourishing, let's talk about real student examples, faculty examples, staff examples, make it real." That was most important when clearly expressing, in compelling ways, what it means to be a Catholic, Norbertine and liberal arts college: the three pillars of St. Norbert College's mission.

Mission radiance

It was Bruess' priority to ensure the tripartite mission was lived in a newly integrated way throughout campus, beginning with an offering of radical hospitality to everyone: "We need faculty and staff in all quarters ... welcoming students, making sure that the work we're doing – being sophisticated in response to challenges students have – is systemic. ... We've made great strides to make sure the curriculum and co-curriculum have built-in examples and content about our mission, so we are truly living what we say."

Fortunately, those efforts were supported by a firm foundation. "We have a history of doing this, before I got here, an ethos and charm of the place. Faculty and staff and students want to be part of a community," he says. "There's a sense of collective purpose." Bruess views as crucial the work done over the past five years to further open the campus community and cultivate a culture that prioritizes equity, diversity, belonging, inclusion and justice (EDIBJ). It's vital work if SNC is to prepare its students to be world-changers.

A symbol of *communio*

The president's office, overlooking Baer Mall, has had a defining feature over the past four-and-a-half years: a singular lit lamp. What started as an off-hand remark from a prospective student's parent has become a defining token from the Bruess presidency.

The Rev. Jim Neilson says, "That light became a luminous symbol to me of [Brian's] active and dynamic and thoughtful presence to one and all at SNC."

Bruess says, "I leave that light on knowing that some students think that I'm here. But it's a symbol to think of this building as people who think about you, who care about you. And you can come ask for help if you need it."



And when the college examines everything, from academic courses to dining, through the lens of serving and teaching students, Bruess says everyone succeeds. Students become invested in creating their own educational experience, faculty and staff are invigorated with a sense of true worth, and the community at-large feels compelled to help through gifts of time, funds and talent.

The world is fraught with polarization, angst and tension, says Bruess. A lack of critical thinking is evident everywhere. SNC, then, is an institution designed to meet what society needs, now more than ever. "Our community is fully given to [that purpose]," he says. "My favorite thing about this place is when student ideas are manifested. SNC talks ... response to COVID, the raising of the Menominee flag, that was a student initiative, the VAWA grant. ... We're an institution that's making good on its promises. That's inspiring."

His colleagues and fellow college leaders certainly see his successes in amplifying the mission.

The Rev. Jim Neilson '88, special assistant to the president for mission, says, "He [Bruess] articulated the essential mission of the school in the way he was literally present with us, through thick and thin and good times and bad times, affirming and encouraging one and all to know we are all of us, first and foremost, loved and respected, full of wonder and grace."

Julie Massey '87, chief of staff, says, "His vision helped to shape a key leadership position connected to diversity and the curriculum. He's been a consistent voice for understanding that it is the values of our mission that call us to welcome a richly diverse community on campus. He understands that it is because of our Catholic, Norbertine, and liberal arts tradition that we are called to work to foster equity and belonging and build greater justice."

The right place, the right time

Bruess says: "One of the things I thought I knew and believed coming in was that a college president should do everything they can to find themselves at a place where they fit – where they align with what the institution needs at that time."

Bruess' educational background centers on the moral reasoning and identity formation of college-aged students and has served him well as he guided the college through the difficulties of the pandemic. "My leadership tends to be characterized by relationships, empathy, listening, more consultation than directives. That approach was a good approach for the college at this time."

It was good, he says, only because St. Norbert students are capable of completing enormous tasks. An example of that came early in the 2020 fall semester. The college experienced a wave of COVID-19 infections and was close to having to send its students home. Bruess sent what he calls "the Dad memo," asking students to adhere to a midnight curfew and a policy of no guests in their rooms. Ten days later, the rate of infection dropped off. "We know that, in theory and in research, that youth respond to high expectations, but I had no idea of the extent 2,000 students could rise to the occasion," he says.

A new, but familiar challenge

Bruess will become the first president for the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in Minnesota, in the fall of 2022, and Carol will take on an ambassador role. The two storied institutions have been intertwined since the 1960s and Bruess' appointment sees them fully unified.

He says, "Even though we weren't looking for this, sometimes a vocational call comes in the most unexpected time. ... I know these institutions really well because we've competed against them all these years. ... It's a really unique challenge. And [Minnesota's] where we raised our kids. So, it's another homecoming for us." Bruess served at St. Catherine University in Minnesota for 22 years, and Carol is a professor

emerita of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

Bruess is proud of the work he and Carol have done but is quick to give all the credit to his colleagues and the students at St. Norbert: "Institutions aren't built around a person, they're built around a community of people. Leaders come and go. ... Norbertines delegate 99.9 percent of responsibilities to the board, and the board delegated 99.9 percent of that to me, and I delegate 99.9 percent of that to the people. People often feel like they don't have power, but here they do."

Parting wisdoms

Bruess' connection to St. Norbert will remain strong. He says, "Carol and I have been telling people we're going, but we're not leaving. ... I want to support the [new] president and their cabinet. I love this place and I want to continue to see it flourish."

He says that he expects to see changes and, indeed, hopes to. His only requests are that the new president becomes immersed in the college and honors staff, faculty and student contributions.

He leaves confident in his alma mater: "It's a great time for a presidential transition. The strategic plan is done, fully funded. The enrollment is looking strong. The campaign is about to be launched. ... I am, for better or worse, an optimist by design. But in this case, I see how a college is responding to its headwinds, and I see the output. Not only do I think it will be done, I'm watching it. Success begets success."

Bruess says, "We're going to miss our alma mater. It's been something special ... being here, trying to make a difference in a place that is so loved and made such an impact." ♣

In his words: the importance of Catholic higher education

"The most cherished values of a place are the hardest fought ones. When you think about being Catholic, Norbertine and liberal arts, there's a lot of external pressures on all three," says President Brian Bruess.

"The world has never needed Catholic-college graduates more than it does right now, students that are ethical, that are principled, that are working for the common good. Critical thinkers, effective in interpersonal communication and relationships that stand for good things. 'Catholic' is a big tent. It's not about indoctrination or a particular belief, it's about a way of being in the world and contributing to something larger than yourself, something maybe even transcendent.

"The Norbertine piece that's relevant today is the idea of pursuing peace, reconciliations. The polarization that exists, the conflict that exists in society ... [Radical hospitality] is more than a hello, welcome or opening the door; it's believing that when you genuinely and authentically welcome someone, they feel valued. And when someone feels valued, their chances of flourishing go up dramatically.

"I decided in 1993-94 that I wanted to be in Catholic higher education. And I think, because of the intersectionality of its mission. The Catholic intellectual tradition, the Catholic social teaching, these are lofty goals of pursuing justice, of pursuing integration of faith and reason, common good and the dignity of people.

"It's really holy work."

Authentic relationships in lived community



A campus-wide focus on student success was a hallmark of the Bruess presidency. Brian and Carol set a high value on relationships with people of all ages, excitedly connecting with SNC's student body. The students, in turn, responded with affection and pride.



The First Women of St. Norbert

It's been 70 years since the first women formally admitted to St. Norbert as co-eds stepped onto campus to claim their place as part of the brand-new Class of 1956. They formed a very considerable minority at a school that had been men-only since its founding in 1898. In the ensuing years, a great deal has changed for the college, for the campus community and for the experience of women who, here in 2022, form 59 percent of the student body.

We celebrate those pioneers who began it all.

By Rachel Mueller '14 with additional reporting
by Todd Danen '77, Breanna Zubrod '24 and Erin Lamm '24



The lone women's bathroom on the first floor of Boyle Hall was a safe haven of sorts for a newly enrolled group of young, bright-eyed students. In between class periods, which included early Saturday mornings, 24 first-year female students found themselves bonding together in their not-so-typical hangout across from the library.

It was the place to be because there wasn't really a space for them yet.

When St. Norbert College announced an official change to co-education in the early 1950s, these young women became the first of their kind. They blazed a trail for many other women and minority groups who would attend SNC in the decades after.

Getting to campus

The year was 1952, and getting to and from their daily classes was the first barrier these trailblazers needed to overcome. Since women couldn't live on campus (the on-campus residence hall was men-only), they journeyed back and forth every day. Those who were from areas further away had to find lodging within walking distance, typically from families willing to house college students.

Ann (Morneau) Hollenback '56 lodged in a house nearby on Fourth Street. Since she hailed from Bear Creek, Wis., about 40 miles away, her only option was to find a place close to campus in order to attend. She wanted to go to a Catholic college after graduating from high school, but didn't think SNC was a viable choice because the school was only accepting co-eds from the local area at that time.

"My mother came and kind of twisted the arm of Father Dupont, who was the registrar," says Hollenback. "Somehow she managed to get me in."

Others carpooled to and from campus from their homes in the De Pere and Green Bay area.

Both **Cathy (Schmitz) Jacobs '56** and **Nancy (Wahl) Riley '56** had graduated from St. Joseph Academy in Green Bay and shared the same homeroom for four years. "My parents were retired so I could get the car more often," says Jacobs. "Consequently, picking up three, four, five girls on the way,



I was always late for class."

Luckily, it didn't seem to bother her early-morning Norbertine professors.

After high school she wanted to teach and set her sights on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for their well-known education department. There was some resistance to the idea from her father so she resigned to working full-time instead. As in Hollenback's case, Jacobs' mother got involved.

"My father didn't believe that women should have to go to college," she admits. "But when St. Norbert announced that they were going to be co-ed, my mother influenced my father to let me come."

Riley was planning to attend the University of Wisconsin-Extension which had also just opened up their classrooms to women, but she switched gears when she was officially presented with a scholarship from the Green Bay Press-Gazette to attend St. Norbert.

First days of school

Looking back, those first days on campus were a mixed bag. All three ladies knew that some of their male classmates weren't bothered by their arrival, while others were directly sharing their irritation. Those others included a few of the faculty. Some were known for their blatant dislike of women, too; but the male mood on campus was easy enough to handle overall. "The ones that were here prior to us when it was all boys had a different attitude than those that came in with us," says Riley.

Jacobs recalls that one specific classmate was still voicing that disapproval at the class's 50th reunion – all because the college had tightened its dress code. Men on campus could no longer wear more casual options like T-shirts. Meanwhile,

Roll Call, 1952

FIRST-YEARS

Marian Baenen Smeester
Mary Jean Barrett Terry
Constance Sherman Belongia
Joan Bielinski Lennon
Mary Ann Cavanaugh Barger
Jo Ann Centen Blair
Dorothy Don Leoy
Donna Haanen
Maureen Hogan Neufeld
Donna Janssen De Broux
Delores Mintjal Westlund
Clara Ann Morneau Hollenback
Karen Murphy De Quardo
Rosalie Olejniczak Cuene
Janice Mateju Peot
Ruth Platten Huguet
Patricia Reinhart Britton
Shirley Rustlie Firehammer
Joan Schmitt Meyer
Catherine Schmitz Jacobs
Colleen Sullivan Hawley
Nancy Vande Walle Jocis
Mary Van Roy Mueller
Nancy C. Wahl Riley

SOPHOMORES

Helen Linsmier Lenss
Jean Peters

JUNIORS

Joanne Burns
Hazel Van Vonderen Duquaine

SENIORS

Evelyn Kroening Schrickel
Elsie "Peggy" Lang Teeters





Co-education at St. Norbert

- The first woman ever to graduate from SNC was **Agnes Duckett Toonen '41**, (Her son **Tony Toonen '79** would attend in his turn.) At the time of Agnes' death, she was the school's oldest living alum.
- Through the 1940s and 1950s, Notre Dame, Dominican and Franciscan sisters completed their educations at St. Norbert, attending classes on campus during the summer.
- The first fully co-ed class enrolled in 1952.
- Lambda Sigma Nu (above left) hosted the college's first mixed social function for students on Feb. 15, 1953. Some 50 students went to Legion Park ice rink and afterward enjoyed a hot lunch at 301 Marsh St. (This was the first time that male students had been allowed to visit the women's lounge.)
- In 1955, women competed in an intramural sport – basketball – for the first time (above right). The Pokey Dots took the title.

the women were expected to always wear skirts. Hollenback was even called into the office for not wearing a skirt while exploring downtown De Pere.

"I was seen wearing jeans," she admits, a small, playful smile on her face.

The dress code was just one of the expectations put in place for students back in 1952. The dining areas were men-only in the beginning, so female students either ate at the snack bar in the Van Dyke Gym or at the off-campus houses where they were staying. Hollenback explained that radios had to be turned off at 9 p.m. in the dorms, and all students were expected to observe "quiet hours."

The dean of women, **Mary Lanigan**, also kept a strict eye on her charges' off-campus activities. "There were places where we would congregate in the evenings downtown, and it was very prohibited," shares Jacobs. "Dean Lanigan and Father Cornell would walk the streets and peek in the windows to see who was there."

Fun, games and academics

It wasn't all super strict administrators, dress-code violations, or closed doors on campus, though. A "Ladies of St. Norbert" social group – LSN, of course, so dubbed Lambda Sigma Nu – was created in the women's sophomore year. The **Rev. Anselm M. Keefe, Class of 1916** ran a theatre group. He wrote and directed plays, performed on the third floor of Main Hall, that Hollenback remembers fondly.

"Father Keefe became my teaching mentor, too," Hollenback says. "He was very supportive."

Physical education classes were held in the Van Dyke Gym where the women could play basketball – even though it had to be by "girls' rules," which meant using only half the court. "Eventually, we got to do bowling with Father Jolicoeur," says Riley. "He also coached boys' tennis and he let me go out and hit with the team."

With a minor in physical education, Riley had to take many of her classes with male students.

Many fraters – those men studying to be Norbertines – typically attended their classes in the abbey at the time. (This was the original priory on campus, now St. Joseph Hall. The new St. Norbert Abbey across the river would not be built until 1959.)

"The only time you ran into the fraters was in the library and you weren't supposed to talk or look at them," Riley says. "But most of them were neighborhood boys or guys we had gone to school with so you would sneak over to say hi anyway."

As a senior, Hollenback needed to enroll in one more philosophy course, but the only session left was one reserved for fraters. It was originally going to be taught in the priory, but was moved to Boyle Hall so she could attend too.

Outside the classroom, the women coordinated and attended dances throughout the year, including at Homecoming,



and demonstrated their school spirit at basketball and football games. A cheerleading group formed their sophomore year.

"We were in charge of ordering our own uniforms," Riley emphasizes. "So many things we had to do on our own."

"That first year of cheerleading, you talked me into it," Jacobs laughs, looking pointedly at Riley. "I was horrible."

That cheering also extended to Abbot Pennings' birthday. The entire campus would gather in front of Old St. Joe's to sing to him in person on his special day.

"You children are so good, you can have the day off," he would always say," Hollenback remembers.

"That's why we sang it!" chuckles Riley.

In the 70 years since

Hollenback, who ended up back at St. Norbert more than once since her undergraduate years, says the education she received there has influenced every year since. Under Keefe's encouragement, she decided to attend UW-Madison to

earn her master's degree. Then, she was invited back to teach at SNC. Over the years, her teaching life also took her to UW-Green Bay, to St. Boniface in De Pere and to St. Joseph Academy in Green Bay, where she taught biology to high school and college students. In 1990, she joined Notre Dame Academy and remained there for 30 more years until she retired in 2020 after 60 years of teaching.

"I taught a lot using stories, like Father Keefe," she says. "Years later, students would tell me 'thanks for the stories.'"

While Hollenback bounced around, Jacobs stayed in place. After her student-teaching placement in Ashwaubenon, Wis., she remained at that school for another 34 years. During that time, she obtained her masters from Northern Michigan University and became closely connected to St. Norbert's student-teacher program. "My husband, Bud, established a scholarship with the education department," she shares. "Someone who completes their Sophomore Block placement in either elementary or secondary education receives a scholarship from us."

Jacobs' local involvement also extends to the Rawhide Boys Ranch where she helped establish the Bud Jacobs Award 24 years ago in alignment with the ranch's Student of the Month program.

While both Hollenback and Jacobs stayed in Wisconsin, Riley would end up in Crystal Lake, Ill. She taught sixth graders and then switched to physical

education for three years. After meeting her husband, she started a new position in Marion Central Academy's P.E. program, but left early on to start a family, as was expected. As her five children grew, she returned to work with a position at the Crystal Lake Park District.

While the original 24 women in St. Norbert's first co-ed intake enrolled in the fall of 1952, not all would seek degrees. Ten of the first-years who enrolled in 1952 graduated from the college in 1956. Six of the women had enrolled as upperclassmen with two in each grade level: Those junior and senior students graduated in 1954 and 1953, respectively. ♣



Seven decades after they first arrived on campus, St. Norbert College Magazine invited three members of the college's first class of women back to campus. **Ann (Morneau) Hollenback '56, Cathy (Schmitz) Jacobs '56 and Nancy (Wahl) Riley '56** sat down to reminisce with **Todd Danen '77** (College Advancement). snc.edu/magazine

Female firsts at SNC



Rosie (Olejniczak) Cuene '56 was selected as the college's first-ever Homecoming queen.



Maureen Hogan '55 became the first woman to serve as a class officer when she was elected as treasurer for the freshman class in 1953.



It seems likely that one **W. Lambert**, assistant in physical education, was the first female faculty member at SNC. By 1955, two others had joined her.



Helga Schramm, first international woman student, studied at SNC in 1953. The Austrian was chosen as Queen of the Sweetheart Ball.



Gertrude Bergstrom was SNC's first woman trustee, serving on the board of governors 1954-66.



Anna Schmitt was the first to be recognized with SNC's Alma Mater Award, accepting the honor in 1957. All 11 of her sons graduated from SNC.



Meg (Perkins) Vander Zanden was the first student from SNC to study abroad, enrolling at the University of Aix-en-Provence in France, in 1962.



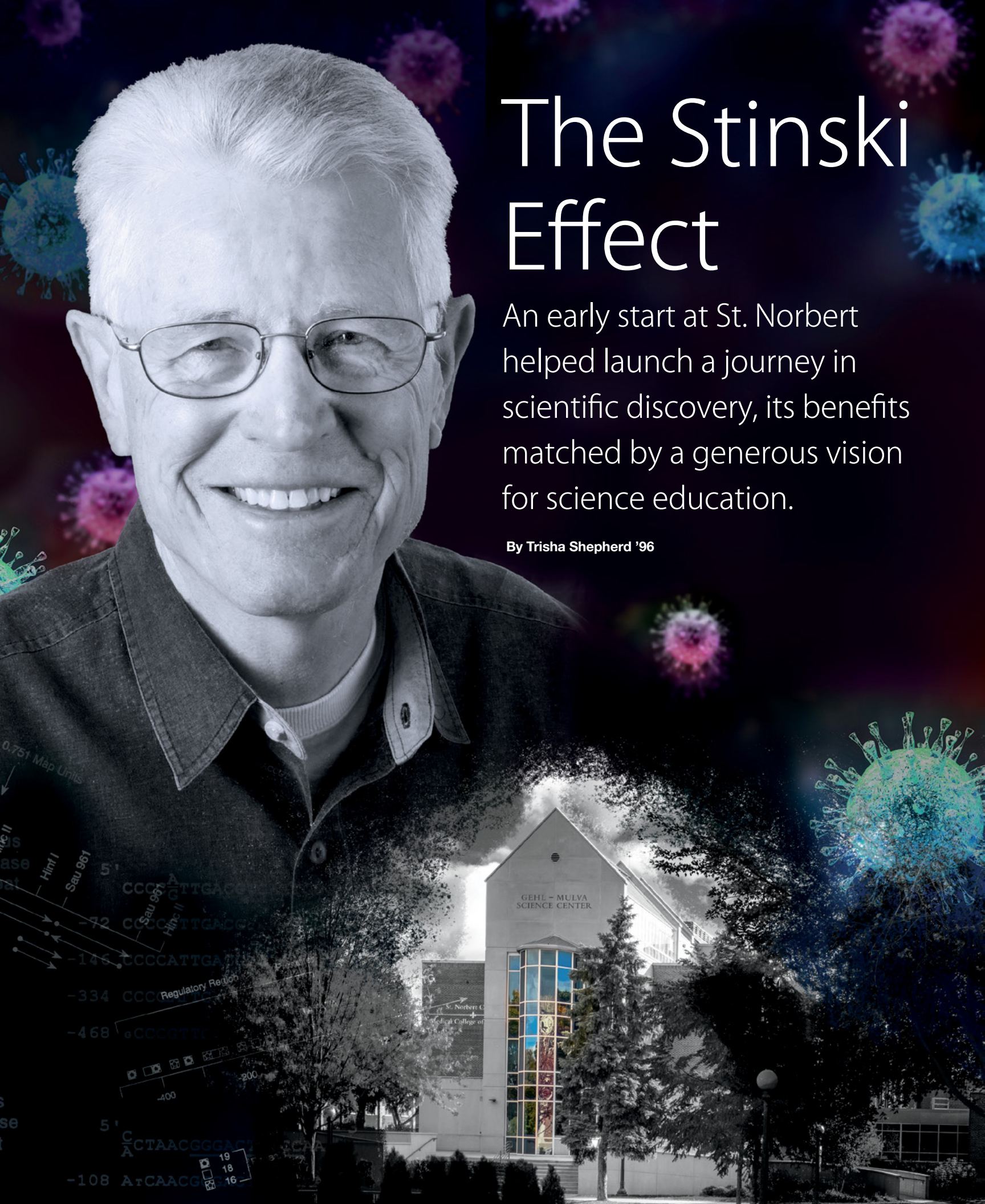
Joanne Burns '54 was the first woman from St. Norbert to be listed in Who's Who.



Sandy Odorzynski (Economics, Emerita) was the first female faculty member to hold the rank of full professor, a position she attained in 1997.

We'd like to hear from you!

The information in this article is gleaned from personal recollection, college records, Des Peres yearbooks and the St. Norbert Times issues of the early 1950s. It's possible these sources may not be correct on all points, and certainly there is much more to know. If you have information relating to this landmark chapter in college history, let us know at magazine@snc.edu.



The Stinski Effect

An early start at St. Norbert helped launch a journey in scientific discovery, its benefits matched by a generous vision for science education.

By Trisha Shepherd '96

Wherever you are in the world today, there is a good chance your life's journey has intersected with that of **Mark Stinski '63**. The world-renowned scientist began his academic career at St. Norbert in 1959 and went on to make a transformational discovery that led to a valuable patent and several blockbuster drugs. If you or a loved one have ever coped with cancer or arthritis, received a COVID vaccine, depended on a drug like Humira or Adalimumab – or benefitted directly or indirectly from the rigorous science education offered at SNC – your path and Stinski's have likely crossed.

But before Stinski's winding path could have met with yours – before his appetite for “uncharted territory” led to that path's most extraordinary twist – it was shaped by humble beginnings and devoted parents in Menasha, Wis.

Lifelong appreciation for education

In childhood, Stinski inherited a deep respect for education from his parents. “My parents grew up in a difficult financial time; they did not have much opportunity for education,” Stinski says. “My father came from a family of five boys and five girls. My grandmother died and my grandfather had to take care of the entire family. My father had to go to work. He had only a grade-school education.” Similarly, Stinski's mother ended her education after her second year of high school due to family obligations. “Her mom had typhoid fever. My mom was the eldest in a family of seven and had to drop out of school.”

Stinski was deeply inspired by the value his parents placed on education, in spite of all they themselves had missed out on. Educators on his mother's side of the family further piqued his interest in the teaching profession. Add to that a budding love for science, and Stinski set his sights on becoming a high-school chemistry or biology teacher. He admits to being “not the most confident student or the best student,” but he had a strong work ethic and sense of curiosity. In 1959, with the support of his parents, Stinski began his post-secondary education at St. Norbert College, which he chose largely because a cousin attended the school. Stinski's path reached a fateful intersection at SNC when he studied with noted biologist the **Rev. Anselm M. Keefe, O.Praem., Class of 1916**.

“I took a one-credit course he taught, a survey course of public health problems, disease, vaccines, treatments such as antibiotics. He really got me interested in science and microbiology,” says Stinski. He was grateful to Keefe for supporting his eventual decision to transfer to Michigan State University, a school with programs that could foster Stinski's increasingly specialized scientific interests. “He saw the bigger world,” says Stinski of his mentor. “He was a typical nerdy scientist who was also a priest. He was quiet, but he knew his stuff and he was smart. He was the start of my journey.”

A “eureka” moment

After completing his education and receiving his doctorate, Stinski, who had been an ROTC student, served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War from 1969-1971. He put his scientific background to work, focusing on anthrax at the virology laboratories of Fort Detrick, Md., and later serving in a chemical intelligence unit in South Korea. After completing his service, Stinski launched his own research program at the University of Iowa, where his work zeroed in on a little-known virus, the human cytomegalovirus (HCMV). “It was a gamble,” says Stinski. No basic science had been conducted on this disease before, but he was drawn to the challenge of delving into “uncharted territory.” Grants from the American Cancer Society and March of Dimes helped his team generate enough data to win additional funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Stinski's team was the first in the world to clone the human cytomegalovirus (CMV) genome. He recalls a “eureka moment” in the lab sometime around 1983. One of Stinski's students, Mike Wathen, was using a radioactive probe to detect viral RNA transcription. There was an extremely strong response from a region of the viral DNA. The intensity of the transcription was surprising: Stinski and Wathen ran more tests and realized this

CORONAVIRUS, THEN AND NOW

Stinski got his first close-up view of the signature club-shaped spikes of coronavirus while looking through microscopes during his graduate studies. He recalls a colleague being criticized for his focus on coronavirus because “he was working with a virus that affected animals but not human beings.

“But I remember us saying we don't know if this could affect humans. That turned out to be prophetic,” says Stinski.

Decades later, Stinski's path crossed with coronavirus again. The holder of the Mark Stinski Chair at the University of Iowa, Dr. Stanley Perlman, is an expert on coronaviruses who served on the FDA advisory committee that approved COVID vaccines used during the current pandemic. “I was proud to have him as an endowed chair,” says Stinski.

“You can have a lot of good, educated people in the world. But it's important to have some of those people be scientists if we're going to flourish as a society, as a country.”

Noted, first to last: an essay in contrasts



Wise words



Young **Harold Allie, Class of 1916**, did not shy from leaving words of advice with the news of his new position for those, like the young scholar pictured, coming up just behind him. With all the wisdom garnered from his few months out in the world, he wrote: "I know that all my progress so far is due to the teaching and talks I received in class at St. Norbert's. If the boys only knew how true they are, they would listen. I did not get to this position without a 'scrap.' You see, the trouble is, when the young man starts out to do something, at the very first disappointment he quits, discouraged and convinced that he has made a mistake in his vocation. I went up to apply for an office position eight times and was turned down each time."

ALUMNI OF ST. NORBERT

was no fluke or mistake: the results were repeatable.

That moment led to a breakthrough discovery: something they called the CMV promoter, which kick-starts high expression of mammalian proteins. "In 1984 we patented it," says Stinski. The team believed it could become valuable.



A gamble pays off

During the seven years while they awaited patent approval, Stinski's team shared their discovery broadly. After the patent was granted in 1992, it generated \$160 million thanks to research labs and pharmaceutical companies who used it to develop blockbuster drugs. These drugs included Humira, Enbrel and Adalimumab – drugs that treat conditions such as arthritis, psoriasis and ulcerative colitis – and Rituxan for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The CMV promoter was instrumental in creating monoclonal antibodies to attack cancers and infectious pathogens.

Giving back to future scientists

Following these scientific successes, Stinski and his wife, **Mary Ellen**, felt a calling to help educate the next generation of scientists. Their gifts to St. Norbert College have totaled close to \$1 million, and include critical contributions to the creation of the Gehl-Mulva Science Center – their gift provided the schematics for a building designed for the next 50 years of science education and beyond – as well as an endowed scholarship and endowed summer research award for biology degree-seeking students.

"You can have a lot of good, educated people in the world. But it's important to have some of those people be scientists if we're going to flourish as a society," says Stinski.

The Stinskis were impressed by the ripple-effect impact of the new science center. "It ended up attracting the Wisconsin Medical College to come to SNC," says Stinski. "It set up a base for studying to get a medical degree and getting more clinicians in the northern part of state, and it also upped the quality of students coming to St. Norbert."

Source of gratitude

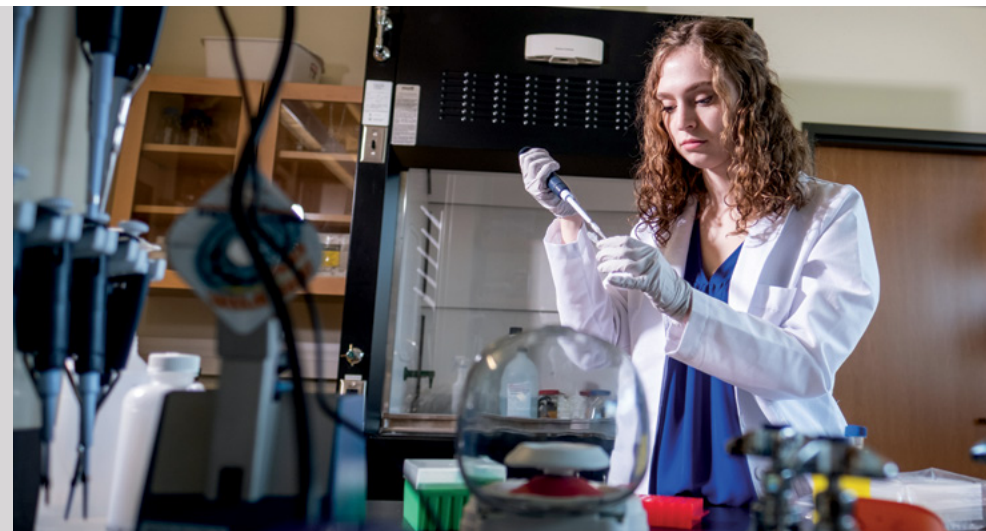
Looking back now at that remarkable path, one might expect Stinski's greatest pride and satisfaction to lie in his research: work that has helped save or improve countless lives. Or perhaps in philanthropy, as he and Mary Ellen continue to shape the education of future scientists through their generosity.

His greatest source of pride and gratitude, however, plumbs a deeper level: It's the love and support of his family that made his journey possible. "None of the accomplishments would have happened without the love of my parents, my wife and my sons. They supported me when I had to work hard." ♣

HONORED

Stinski (who attended St. Norbert College 1959-61 before completing his undergrad and graduate studies elsewhere) was pleased to accept an honorary degree from St. Norbert College during Commencement in May 2022. Stinski shares this advice for the new generation of aspiring scientists: "Don't worry about competition. Don't worry how you stack up. Be more concerned about your work ethic and having that freedom of mind to be creative. What makes this country unique is the creativity of its scientists."

 The Gehl-Mulva Science Center at St. Norbert, whose origins lie in a foundational gift by early believers **Mark '63** and **Mary Ellen Stinski**, has 45 teaching/research labs, 10 classrooms, one large lecture hall and 15 student study lounges, all in the service of a state-of-the-art education for developing scientists like **Olivia Bruni '23**, current holder of the Mark Stinski Award. snc.edu/magazine.



The very first alumni note published by St. Norbert College named, not surprisingly, a priest – more precisely, a priest-to-be. The **Rev. George Beemsterboer, Class of 1911**, we learned, would complete his studies at St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, N.Y., and was to be ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The date was 1917 and the publication was the very first edition of the college yearbook, *Des Peres*. St. Norbert College itself was no more than 20 years on from its founding as an institution to prepare young men for the priesthood.

Three other candidates for the priesthood and two newly ordained men joined Beemsterboer in those notes – as well as **Harold Allie, Class of 1916**, now on the USS *Pennsylvania*, who had been appointed personal stenographer to Rear Admiral Mayo. And readers learned that **Martin J. Van der Heyden, Class of 1909**, "has made a real success in business. He is now the district superintendent of the metropolitan Life Insurance Company in Joliet, Ill."

Since the college began publishing for alumni readers in the 1950s, alumni notes have found their permanent home in their magazine. And, by chance, the very latest batch of notes to arrive in the magazine office includes one concerning a priest: It's news that the **Rev. Bob Finnegan '49**, of St. Norbert

Abbey, celebrates his 70th jubilee this summer. But these recent notes, awaiting publication in the fall, include topics unheard of for that 1917 edition: a woman lawyer (**Maya Zahn '08**), a sports science and biomechanics intern (**Devon Silver '20**), a marriage (**Chauntelle Skarr '03**) and a new baby (for **Nikki Hoffman (Feron) '10** and **Alex Hoffman '10**).

And there will be deaths to note that we sorrowfully anticipate. In that 1917 edition, there were no deaths to report from among those few, and still young, men then counted among the college's alumni: Their first losses would come the following year, after the United States entered World War I and four St. Norbert men would lay down their lives in the service of a precarious peace. Here in the 2020s, however, with an alumni base of many years behind us, news of recent deaths claims several pages of each issue. Those obituary notices are the last thing we can do for our readers, and our student editors take them very seriously.

These days, by the way, Beemsterboer (who would become a professor and a monsignor and who died in 1971) and his news would not have made the cut for this issue either. With a wealth of successful alumni to feature, we now try to avoid anticipating events, so word on his graduation and ordination would also be held for the fall edition.

Births/
Adoptions

2003 Melissa (Netzer) and Nick Patton '03, Sheboygan, Wis., a son, Julian Charles, Jan. 31, 2022. He joins sister Lilah, 8, and brother Elliott, 6.

2004 Katie Kraemer and Chris Campbell, Oklahoma City, a daughter, Nora Sue, Oct. 22, 2021.

2007 Kathryn Heitman and Mark More, Lyndon Station, Wis., a son, Donovan David, July 29, 2020. He joins brothers Alexander, 3, and Christopher, 1.

2007 Christina (Klement) and Greg Weichman, Pewaukee, Wis., a son, Bennett James, May 24, 2021. He joins sister Lucille, 3.

2007 Allison and Blake Barr-Bertany, Elgin, Ill., a daughter, Hannah Mary, Aug. 13, 2021. She joins brother Garrett, 2.

2008 Maggie (VerBrugge) and Dan Leveritt, Brookfield, Wis., a son, Jackson, Aug. 7, 2021.

2008 Jacqueline (Koehl) and Alexander Piazza, Grand Chute, Wis., a son, Michael, Jan. 25, 2022.

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

2009 Kim Anderson and Steve Landgraf '10, Lexington, Va., a daughter, Ivy, June 22, 2021.

2009 Laura (Damon) and Ryan Hanson, Wauwatosa, Wis., a daughter, Mina, Sept. 30, 2021.

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

2010 Kathleen (MacLeay) and Kyle Wesolowski, Stevens Point, Wis., a daughter, Charlotte, Aug. 7, 2021.

2010 Nikki (Ferron) and Alex Hoffman '10, West Bend, Wis., a son, Henry, Oct. 22, 2021.

2010 Joshua and Ashley Cory-Yaeggi, Sturgeon Bay, Wis., a son, Wyatt Douglas, Nov. 2, 2021. He joins sisters Addison, 6, and Sawyer, 3.

2010 Kallie (Lundberg) and Dr. Blake Bashor '11, of Bettendorf, Iowa., a daughter, Camille, Nov. 27, 2021. She joins sisters Zoe, 5, and Isabel, 2.

2011 Molly (Moran) and Andrew Harder, Appleton, Wis., a son, Colt Michael, Jan. 20, 2021.

2011 Kailin (Olejniczak) and Jason Perugini, Waukesha, Wis., a son, Vincent Thomas, May 8, 2021. He joins brother Dominic, 4, and sister Rosalia, 2.

2011 Katie (Adams) and William Hansinger '09, Waukesha, Wis., a son, Rudi, June 28, 2021. He joins brother Charlie, 2.

2011 Kelsey Faust-Kubale and Rick Faust, Oshkosh, Wis., a son, Aksel Armin, Aug. 11, 2021.

2011 Kassandra (Evers) and Kurt Beno '14, Greenville, Wis., a son, Krew Joseph, Feb. 17, 2022. He joins brother Beckham, 3, and sister Tinley, 2.

2012 Tim and Katie Muldoon, Sheboygan

Falls, Wis., a daughter, Zoey, Sept. 24, 2020.

2012 Connie Humann and Nick Kaldunski, Milwaukee, a daughter, Adaline Mae, Nov. 3, 2021.

2012 Emily (Perszyk) and John Grogan '12, Oconomowoc, Wis., a son, Finn, Nov. 19, 2021. He joins brother Jack, 2.

2013 Dayna (Nell) and Andrew Pekarek, Algoma, Wis., a daughter, Ayden, Oct. 17, 2021.

2014 Kate (Schabach) and Chris Dulmes '11, Antigo, Wis., a son, Nelson, Dec. 30, 2020.

2014 Karissa (Kaiser) and Tyler Seidl '13, Luxemburg, Wis., a son, Jay, April 16, 2021. He joins brother Ethan, 3.

2014 Allyson (Bills) and C.J. Guzan '14, West Bend, Wis., a son, Theo, Aug. 16, 2021.

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

2015 Maddie (Cremer) and Micah Neely, Kaukauna, Wis., a daughter, Norah, Sept. 12, 2021.

2015 Taylor (Zilch) and AJ Kersten '12, Wrightstown, Wis., a son, Finn Robert, Oct. 16, 2021.

2015 Steffany (Van Dreese) and Michael Kohlbeck, De Pere, a son, Woods, Oct. 29, 2021.

Marriages

2005 Jessie Navin and Melissa Rentz, Oct. 23, 2021. They live in Maple Grove, Minn.

2007 Amanda Fischer and Steven VanErden,

Falls, Wis., a daughter, Zoey, Sept. 24, 2020.

2010 Jenny Scherer and Michael Benkert, July 10, 2021. They live in Cincinnati.

2011 Dan Handrich and Mollie Ekness, April 16, 2022. They live in Appleton, Wis.

2013 Jenna Hines and Jake Reifenberg, Oct. 9, 2021. They live in Mundelein, Ill.

2013 Spencer Young and Kalynn Krause, Oct. 9, 2021. They live in Shiocton, Wis.

2014 Anna Shircel and Matthew Wendt, Nov. 6, 2021. They live in Madison, Wis.

2015 Claire Tocco and Tom Murray, Oct. 9, 2021. They live in Neenah, Wis.

2016 Kiley Winter and Bryce Dunathan '16, June 27, 2020. They live in Appleton, Wis.

2016 Abby Dalla Santa and Kevin Krueger '15, Dec. 31, 2020. They live in Boston.

2016 Megan Santi and Nicholas Gibson, June 4, 2021. They live in Hobart, Wis.

2016 Michaela Reignier and Jacob Schneider '17, July 10, 2021. They live in Neenah, Wis.

2017 Aubree Antosch and Brad Brux '17, July 10, 2021. They live in Mosinee, Wis.

2018 Megan O'Neil and Marcel LaFountain '18, Nov. 20, 2021. They live in Rhinelander, Wis.

2020 Abigail Kurth and Adam Sorensen '20, April 30, 2022. They live in Green Bay.

Deaths

1951 Clem Kueper, of De Pere, died Dec. 2, 2021, at the age of 93. He served in the United States Army. He first worked for Northern Paper Mills before moving to Green Bay Packaging, where he would rise to the position of corporate safety director.

He is survived by his wife, Judy, and three children.

Kueper served on the National Safety Council Pulp & Paper Executive Committee and was a founding member of the Nicolet Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks and Moose Clubs and the American Legion. He is survived by his wife, June, and three children.

1952 Roger Weyenberg, of Neenah, Wis., died Feb. 18, 2022, at the age of 91. He served in the United States Navy. He worked at Kimberly-Clark in human resources as a technical training specialist for 35 years. He is survived by three children.

1953 Robert Sauger, of Sheboygan, Wis., died Nov. 24, 2021, at the age of 90. He served in the Korean War with the United States Air Force. He was a Teamster long-haul truck driver for his entire career, logging more than 2,000,000 miles. He is survived by three children.

1953 Joe Zehren, of Cincinnati, died Dec. 29, 2021, at the age of 90. He held chemistry positions first at Durkee Foods in Chicago, then at Crush International, and ended his career at Procter & Gamble Co. He was honored many times for his service, with the 2009 Dottie Reif Community Service Award; 2016 Anderson

Area Volunteer of the Year; and the 2017 Citizens on Patrol/City of Cincinnati Volunteer Appreciation Award. Zehren published several books, including one about his brother and another about his family's contributions to Wisconsin's cheese-making history.

He is survived by his wife, Judy, and three children.

1956 Colleen (Sullivan) Hawley, of Green Bay, died Nov. 30, 2021, at the age of 87. She was a member of the inaugural class of women to graduate from St. Norbert College with bachelor's degrees. She worked in health care for most of her career. Colleen's husband, **Richard Hawley '59**, survived her by only a few weeks and his obituary appears below. The couple is survived by two children.

1956 Leonard Hunsader, of Metamora, Ill., died Dec. 29, 2021, at the age of 87. He served in the United States Army. He received his master's degree in mechanical engineering from Bradley University and worked as an engineer for WABCO, Haulpak and Komatsu. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, and five stepchildren.

1956 Paul Kleinheinz, of Richmond, Texas, died Jan. 24, 2022, at the age of 88. He worked in sales for H.J. Heinz before joining Proctor & Gamble Co. in the sales department for over 30 years. He is survived by four children.

1957 Tom Curren, of Green Bay, died Nov. 26, 2021, at the age of 86. He served in the United States Army and Army Reserves. He was employed as a company comptroller at Wisconsin Michigan

Coaches before later working for Green Bay Metro Transit. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and four children.

1957 Thomas Holschuh, of Green Bay, died Jan. 5, 2022, at the age of 86. He began a lifelong career in transportation at his family's business, Cherry Transit Lines, and met his wife of 62 years while driving bus to Sturgeon Bay. He served terms as the president of the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce and as the director of Green Bay City Transit. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and five children.

1957 Michal Jean Pinegar-Montague Bilsand, of Sheldon, Iowa, died Feb. 10, 2022, at the age of 86. She was a laboratory technician at Conejo Valley (Calif.), Hospital, North Hollywood (Calif.) Hospital and at St. Vincent Hospital and Prevea clinics in Green Bay. She is survived by her husband, Keith, son, Thomas, daughter, Colleen, and two stepsons.

1958 Robert Rademacher, of Fond du Lac, Wis., died Jan. 22, 2022, at the age of 85. He served in the United States Army, including time spent in Germany and France as an atomic armorer. He worked as a rocket engineer for General Electric in Philadelphia, and then as vice president of Tolibia Cheese. He later founded Unicell Inc. in Reedsburg, Wis. He is survived by five children.

1958 Joseph Fierst, of Luxemburg, Wis., died Feb. 18, 2022, at the age of 87. He taught English at Luxemburg-Casco High School for 37 years and earned the Golden Apple Distinguished Teacher

Award in 1996. He was a proud member of the SNC Golden Knights. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann, and five children, including **Ann '97**.

1959 John Snyder, of Las Vegas, died Oct. 12, 2021, at the age of 84. He served in the United States Army. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service in Chicago, New Hampshire and Washington, D.C. He is survived by his wife, Berdeen, and four children.

1959 Richard Hawley, of Green Bay, died Dec. 19, 2021, at the age of 87. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He taught history at Newman High School in Wausau, Wis., and Preble High School in Green Bay before becoming a school counselor. Richard was preceded in death by his wife, **Colleen (Sullivan) Hawley '56**, whose obituary appears above. The couple is survived by two children.

1959 Jan Motiff, of Green Bay, died Jan. 8, 2022, at the age of 85. He served in the United States Army Reserves and was honorably discharged as a captain. He then made a career working as an accountant at Badger Northland and WBAY TV-2 and as a controller for Northern Engraving & Machine until he retired. He is survived by his brother.

1959 Bob Skaleski, of Green Bay, died Jan. 13, 2022, at the age of 85. He worked at Mednikow's Grocery for several years and then Lindsey Meats. He founded Skaleski Meats and partnered with a local butcher to create Melotte-Skaleski Distributing Inc. Skaleski and his wife were



The opportunity to do something special

He ran 100 miles across sunbaked ground in Arizona. And 50 miles in Michigan's August heat. To the outsider, it seems nearly impossible, but for **Tim Muldoon '12** it's a chance to relax.

It's an interesting perspective for someone who lost half his toenails after a 23-hour-and-40-minute run. And he didn't always have fond feelings for running.

"Motivation for running came from St. Norbert. I hated running in high school. ... In between classes [at SNC], I wanted to get out of my dorm room, wanted to take a break. [I thought] let's run over the bridge in De Pere and back, and that's where it started."

Muldoon took the next step and ran the Cellcom half marathon, followed by the full 26.2 mile race a few years later. After that he put the feather in his cap and said never again; but the sense of community he felt at running events was inescapable. "The community comes together, rallies around, cheering on people who kind of feel ordinary at times," he says.

For Muldoon, the ultra-marathon and other endurance events are an opportunity to break free from the daily grind. The husband and father of one enjoys pushing his body, but mostly relishes in the moments running provides to be with your thoughts and to be surrounded by like-minded individuals.

Not limited to just running, Muldoon has biked 168 miles in 12 hours on the Road America racetrack in Elkhart Lake, Wis., and is a recent board member addition to My Team Triumph which builds inclusive communities for athletes during endurance events.

Tony Kotlarek '02



Films a MKE Love Story

Drawn to film at a young age, his black-and-white debut film, "Lonesome," has already garnered world-wide acclaim.

The classics I've loved movies since middle school and really found my passion at St. Norbert when I helped run the campus station. It wasn't until my 30s that I dedicated the time and space to write screenplays. Classic Hollywood cinema was my inspiration. It made me appreciate the art form differently.

Missed connections The idea for "Lonesome" came from romance films along the same theme – it's a modern twist on the 1928 silent comedy of the same name. I felt that Milwaukee was a small enough, yet big enough city to fit a scenario where two main characters are always, quite literally, missing each other.

It takes a village All who worked on "Lonesome" are ecstatic with its reception, but making it was challenging. There were many things that I learned along the way. It took us 16 days to film, but production spanned 26 months. There were delays. My small budget had to stretch to rent an expensive sound studio for ADR (audio dialogue replacement).

Awards season Most filmmakers see their film in one festival. "Lonesome" has been in 13 so far and has won awards at 8 of them, including Best Feature Film 2021 at both the Around International Film in Germany and the Roman International Short Film Festival in Italy. It's even been compared to "The Artist," "Amelie," and "Manhattan." Streaming platforms will carry it later this year and the film will be shown in Green Bay over Labor Day weekend.

charter members of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Green Bay. He is survived by his wife, Phylis, and six children.

1959 Patrick Piper, of Plymouth, Wis., died Feb. 18, 2022, at the age of 85. He served in the United States Army

in the Red Arrow 32nd Infantry. He worked on electric power lines, on an oil rig and as a house painter. He is survived by three siblings.

1960 Donald Weyers, of Ajo, Ariz., died Dec. 26, 2021, at the age of 87. He taught

mathematics at the University of Wisconsin-Superior for more than 25 years and worked summers at Kemps Palucci Seafoods in Alaska. He also taught at the United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain, UAE. He and his wife maintained a farm outside of Superior for many years, where they harvested wood pulp and grew Christmas trees. He is survived by six children.

1960 David Cavera Sr., of Grand Rapids, Mich., died Feb. 2, 2022, at the age of 84. He worked for MidAmerica Potato Company. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and five children.

1960 Angeline (Raasch) Keating, of Franklin, Wis., died Feb. 8, 2022, at the age of 89. A member of the Third Order of St. Francis, she cherished praying the rosary. She is survived by four children.

1961 David Seeman, of Green Bay, died Dec. 12, 2021, at the age of 84. He worked in restaurant equipment and supply sales in Green Bay and started his own business, Warehouse Restaurant Equipment. He and his wife also founded D&N Storage. He is survived by his wife, **Nancy (Janquart) '61**, and two children.

1961 Bill Ryan, of Windsor, S.C., died Jan. 17, 2022, at the age of 82. He served in the United States Army, including one year in the Vietnam War. He worked for Schneider Transport in Green Bay before founding Ryan Transfer. He is survived by his wife, Ute, and two children.

1962 James Jorgensen, of Green Bay, died Dec. 24, 2021, at the age of 82. He served in the

United States Army with a combat tour in the Vietnam War, and retired as lieutenant colonel. He later started a second career at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. He is survived by two children.

1962 Jerome Mostek, of Fond du Lac, Wis., died Feb. 20, 2022, at the age of 81. He served in the United States Army for eight years. He is survived by four children.

1963 Bill Beecher, of Madison, Wis., died Nov. 14, 2021, at the age of 81. He taught in Ashwaubenon, Wis., and at Sherman and Black Hawk Middle Schools in Madison. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and two children.

1963 Gilbert Jarvis, of Denver, N.C., died Feb. 11, 2022, at the age of 80. He was a professor at The Ohio State University in the College of Education where he taught and chaired several academic departments. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and two children.

1964 Bob Morrissey Jr., of Lexington, Ky., died Feb. 3, 2022, at the age of 81. He taught and coached at St. Mary's High School in San Antonio, Texas as part of The Catholic Lay Mission Core. He later taught at several Milwaukee Archdiocesan Schools before teaching and coaching in the Fayette County (Ky.) Public School System. He is survived by his wife, Rita, and two children.

1965 Dr. Fred Fleury, of Marquette, Mich., died Jan. 13, 2022, at the age of 78. He

practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Springfield, Ill. He traveled the world sharing his medical research. He and a partner designed, built and operated Orchard Park Apartments in Springfield. He is survived by three children.

1965 John Kelly III, of Dracut, Mass., died Jan. 22, 2022, at the age of 80. He taught math at Winchester High School for 32 years and coached the school's math team. He is survived by his wife, **Sherry (Francar) '65**, and three children.

1965 Bob Rader, of De Pere, died Feb. 23, 2022, at the age of 78. He served in the United States Navy aboard the USS Denebola. He worked for Ford Motor Company as a market analyst and in sales and marketing at Schneider National and the Fox River Valley Railroad. He later became the executive vice president of Roehl Transport in Marshfield, Wis. He is survived by his wife, **Tori (Evans) '66**, and four children.

1966 Bill "Rookie" Koenen, of Waupun, Wis., died Nov. 11, 2021, at the age of 78. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War and 24 years in the Army Reserves, retiring as lieutenant colonel. He worked as a manufacturing engineer at John Deere in Horicon, Wis., for 27 years. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, and two children.

1966 Jim Romuald, of Brooklyn Park, Minn., died Nov. 19, 2021, at the age of 77. He spent his working years as an employee of Control Data. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lee, and seven children.

1967 Will Techmeier, of Mequon, Wis., died Jan. 8, 2022, at the age of 75. He worked in law in Milwaukee for over 50 years, including at his own Techmeier Law Firm. He is survived by his wife, Paulette, and two children.

1967 Sister Veronette Pieczynski, of Stevens Point, Wis., died Jan. 26, 2022, at the age of 95. She taught in various elementary schools throughout Wisconsin before retiring to St. Joseph Motherhouse to provide support services and focus on prayer ministry. She is survived by her sister and her Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis community.

1968 Nancy (Detampel) Challe, of Kewaunee, Wis., died Dec. 2, 2021, at the age of 85. She worked for the federal government for several years. She and her husband owned and operated a motel and charter fishing business in Algoma, Wis. She is survived by her husband, Cletus, and two children.

1968 Georgine (Buehler) Bapat, of Nekoosa, Wis., died Jan. 23, 2022, at the age of 75. She worked as a medical technologist at St. Francis Hospital in Milwaukee and later in the same position at Labcorp and Roche Biomedical in New Jersey. She is survived by a sister-in-law and several nieces and nephews.

1968 Mary (Brabender) Hughes, of Kenosha, Wis., died March 6, 2022, at the age of 75. She obtained her master's degree in social work from the University of Chicago and was a social worker in the special education department of the Kenosha (Wis.) Unified School District for

ROOTS



Jill Drzewiecki '99 forecasts a more permanent return one day to Wisconsin to apply the skills she's obtained and molded to make lasting change for refugees and their host communities.

"My hope is that I can come back and in a helpful way be part of creating welcoming communities for refugees," she says. "It makes for much richer communities ... and an opportunity to innovate in our communities."

She sees a great challenge for refugees in the lack of understanding from the communities they move to and a tendency for the vast majority of us to get wrapped up in our day-to-day lives. "There are a lot of really good people and there are some good initiatives, like the Norbertines welcoming people, but it needs to be all hands-on-deck," she says. "There are a lot of opportunities ... even if that's just having a meal with someone once a week and practice their English or help someone ride the bus. ... But getting people over that first hump is hard."



A path to global citizenry

In the Jesuit tradition, it is said we are 'men and women for others.' More than an inspiring phrase, for **Jill Drzewiecki '99**, it's lived out daily in her mission. From the international office in Rome, Jill and her coworkers at the Jesuit Refugee Service assist forcibly displaced populations in 57 countries.

When she started with JRS in 2016 as a gender-responsive education specialist, roughly 50 percent of refugee youth had access to primary education. That number dropped to 25 percent of youth who had access to secondary and only 1 percent to higher education. And of those with access, few were girls.

"Schools are safe places to students in conflict-affected regions and long-term investments in peaceable communities," Drzewiecki says. The benefits are transformational: better health outcomes, more income and more stable environments for future generations.

For many, it's not just a lost year or two while they resettle. "The average length of displacement for refugees is between 20 and 25 years," she says. Only about 4 percent of global humanitarian funding goes toward education. But she is seeing signs of improvement: now 68 percent have access to primary education.

Growing up a small-town Wisconsin

resident, Drzewiecki didn't have the words to articulate what she does now: "I come from a community of blue-collar workers. ... Nobody talked about working with international organizations or humanitarian or development work."

"I had **Dr. [Grazia] Villarroel** (Political Science) for my advisor and my first class, my International Studies 100 class ... led to my world opening up a little bit." Drzewiecki interned for a semester in Bogota, Colombia, helping street children, an experience she describes as transformative and traumatic at the same time.

She then completed a master's in environmental education, worked with Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots program and, a few stops later, landed in Rome working at a refugee center. She recalls: "That kind of blew my mind open. ... I was in a sea of people to meet basic needs. I loved it, but it was challenging to be on the front lines of things."

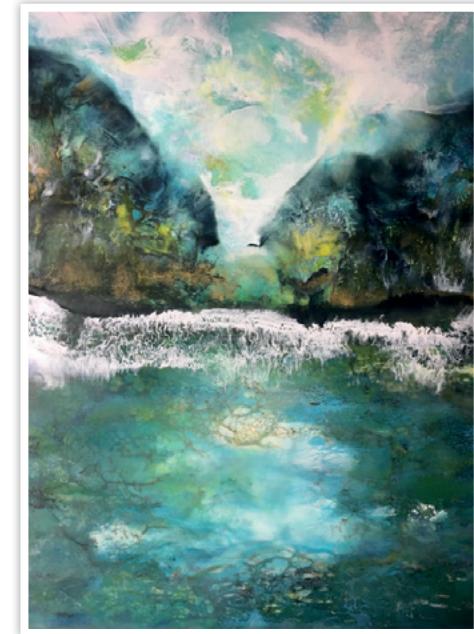
"Being part of the solution, I don't find it depressing. I don't find it debilitating. I find it energizing," she says. "There's so much human potential that's lost, people being traumatized ... by the daily stressors of being in exile. ... I think about wanting people to live their fullest lives."

Ambassador



Jill Drzewiecki '99 has been chosen as St. Norbert's 2022 Ambassador of Peace. It's a role in which she hopes to "help St. Norbert and the local community embrace how they can be relevant in this current refugee context and translate that relevance into action."

"When I was a young student I had these visions, idealistic ideas," she says. So she set out to fan the flame for humanitarian work by developing the tools to enact change. She wants students to be empowered to make change and experience the rewards of humanitarian work. "There's a grace in it all and a beauty in all of the brokenness. I am not getting rich, but I am so happy and so fulfilled," Drzewiecki reflects.



A family affair

Her colorful works made by mixing pigments with hot liquid wax hang across the gallery from a five-foot tall blacksmith made by her father, Jim Ribordy, from threaded wire. And on the opposite wall, nature photographs taken by her sister, Jo Ribordy Christopherson. The Ribordy family's show inside the Beloit (Wis.) Art Center displays their differing pursuits.

Amy Ribordy Reese '85 graduated from St. Norbert with a degree in fine art and applied her artistic abilities into a family floral business and crafting mixed-medium pieces. She published a book in 2007 of her illustrations, "Illustrated Psalms of Praise/Salmos de alabanza ilustrados."

Niece Bailey Reese and nephews Zach Hubner-Schorsch and Phillip Schorsch also had works in the exhibit. For Amy and her family, the experience is a way to share their love of the outdoors and curiosity towards new endeavors. "My dad was always all about trying things and exploring. ... The best thing about the exhibit is that we all worked really hard for two years putting together a body of work that was new," Amy says.

30 years. She is survived by her husband, John, and her daughter.

1969 Robert Guziak, of Long Beach, Calif., died Jan. 11, 2022, at the age of 74. He worked in advertising and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by seven siblings.

1969 Carol (Nieland) Shields, of Elmhurst, Ill., died Jan. 14, 2022, at the age of 74. She is survived by three children.

1970 Bob Patrickus, of Green Bay, died Nov. 25, 2021, at the age of 81. He owned General Bookkeeping & Tax Service. He later opened R. A. Patrickus and Associates Accounting, now known as Patrickus and Jones SC. He also served on the accounting faculty at St. Norbert. He is survived by three children, including **Wendy '84** and **Todd '87**.

1971 Steve Kosmoski, of Sturgeon Bay, Wis., died Feb. 7, 2022, at the age of 72. He worked at Kos Lumber, the family business, and later at Lampert Lumber until his retirement. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and two children.

1973 Paul Eichten, of Syracuse, N.Y., died Oct. 25, 2021, at the age of 72. He served in the United States Army. He worked for Digital Equipment Corporation. He is survived by two children.

1974 Gary Conner, of Pawnee, Ill., died Dec. 19, 2021, at the age of 70. He worked for Builders Aluminum Products in Spring Hill, Fla., and later as the owner/operator of a carpet cleaning business. He is survived by his sister.

1977 Mary (McCluskey) Marra, of Libertyville, Ill., died Nov. 7, 2021, at the age of 66. She worked in sales and marketing at AT&T and Xerox. She is survived by her husband, Nick, and three children.

1978 Jim Guay, of Green Bay, died Feb. 20, 2022, at the age of 65. He worked at North Central Airlines, Public Service Corporation and the Kewaunee Nuclear Plant. He is survived by his wife, **Theresa Flanigan '78**, and two children.

1981 Steve Scannell, of Green Bay, died Nov. 21, 2021, at the age of

63. He owned and operated Elite Drywall. He is survived by two children.

1985 James Graziano, of Elverta, Calif., died Nov. 9, 2021, at the age of 58. He worked as a dispatch superintendent with the Illinois Department of Transportation before becoming a federal officer at the Department of Homeland Security, first at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago and then at Sacramento International Airport. Graziano is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and one child.

1986 Joe Chambers, of Rapid City, S.D., died Feb. 23, 2022, at the age of 58. A musician, singer, storyteller, he had a passion for the arts and entertainment. He is survived by his partner, Everett, and 11 siblings.

1988 Linda Wanless, of De Pere, died Jan. 15, 2022, at the age of 60. She taught English to adults in Japan and later worked as a teacher at Green Bay Christian School and as office manager for the ESL department of St. Norbert. She is survived by two siblings.

1989 Joe Etchingham, of Park Ridge, Ill., died

Dec. 6, 2021, at the age of 54. He worked at Querrey & Harrow Law Firm before joining his brother in a partnership at Etchingham Law. He is survived by his wife, **Kris (Kreisa) '88**, and two children.

1989 Kim Cimaglio, of Palatine, Ill., died Dec. 14, 2021, at the age of 54. She worked in education and development before joining Total Marketing Associates where she rose to be president of the company. She is survived by one child.

1993 Sven Carstensen, of Hartland, Wis., died Nov. 3, 2021, at the age of 50. He worked as a formulating chemist with Plast-O-Mer Inc. in Waukesha, Wis. He later joined Columbus Chemical Industries in Columbus, Wis., in the area of chemical sales, eventually becoming the senior account executive. He is survived by his wife, Wendy.

1999 Katherine O'Brien, of Waukegan, Ill., died Feb. 18, 2022, at the age of 44. She worked for Abbott Laboratories. She is survived by her husband, Joe.

2022 (MBA) Eric Blumreich, of De Pere, died Feb. 1, 2022, at the age of 49. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and worked as the camp director of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay's Camp Tekawitha and later as a development officer in the office of college advancement at St. Norbert. He was recently appointed CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Door County (Wis). He is survived by his wife, Jodie, and two daughters. (An obituary notice also appears on p. 15.)

Class Notes

1973 William Brash has been appointed chief judge of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. He was appointed to the District I Court of Appeals in 2015 after serving on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court 2001-15. He is former presiding judge of the Milwaukee County Civil/Probate Division and previously served as municipal judge for the Village of Fox Point (Wis.) and as a reserve municipal judge. Brash worked as an attorney in private practice 1978-2001. Brash replaces Chief

Judge Lisa S. Neubauer, District II Court of Appeals, who will have served the maximum of six years (two three-year terms) as chief judge. Neubauer remains on the Court of Appeals.

1973 John Casey Hurley had his second book, titled "Improving Instruction: Best Practices Told Through Teacher Stories," published by Roman & Littlefield. Reviewing the book, William Schubert, professor emeritus of curriculum and instruction at the University of Illinois at Chicago, comments, "Teachers from diverse levels of school (elementary, middle and secondary) and from adjacent teaching vocations tell compelling stories, and within these stories one finds virtues of intellect, character, and spirit expressed in myriad ways. The book shows that teacher stories are treasure troves for improved and inspired instruction."

1990 Kevin Revolinski has received a 2021 PenCraft Award for Literary Excellence for his short-story collection, "Stealing Away: Stories." The collection was a Booklife editor's pick, praised for its fresh insights on familiar themes, including the way trauma and a lack of genuine connection can change people. "An enthralling empathetic collection of stories about attempting to make peace with the past while facing uncertain futures," the reviewer said. (A third edition of Revolinski's book "Hiking Wisconsin" will be released this summer.)

1976 Carlene Szostak and Charlotte (Szostak) McLaughlin '81 are the joint authors of a new children's book, "The Marshmallow Mystery," by CJ Corki, their pen name. The book is for children ages 3-5, and the duo are already working on the next book in the series, "Can You Find? Did You Know?"

1980 Jim Garvey has been inducted into the Regis High School (Eau Claire, Wis.) Athletics Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in football.

1982 Pat Connor, who previously worked for Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, has accepted a position at Iowa State University as the director of facilities services for campus life.

1990 Kevin Revolinski has received a 2021 PenCraft Award for Literary Excellence for his short-story collection, "Stealing Away: Stories." The collection was a Booklife editor's pick, praised for its fresh insights on familiar themes, including the way trauma and a lack of genuine connection can change people. "An enthralling empathetic collection of stories about attempting to make peace with the past while facing uncertain futures," the reviewer said. (A third edition of Revolinski's book "Hiking Wisconsin" will be released this summer.)

1994 Dean Lenhart retired with more than 22 years of service as an FBI special agent and 16 years as a counter-intelligence officer for the United States Department of Energy National Laboratories.

the COVID-19 Pandemic Using Wefulness Theory," published in the Journal of Social & Personal Relationships. The journal acknowledges authorship of the new theory in its introduction to the article: "Framed by Wefulness Theory ... the present study explores the COVID-19 global pandemic as a context for examining relational struggle and strength during times of challenge." The article appears in a special issue of the international journal that focuses on relationships in the time of COVID-19.

1991 Tracy Galarowicz has assumed the role of associate dean for Central Michigan University's College of Science & Engineering.

1993 Bridget Krage O'Connor has been named inaugural executive in residence for the Institute for Women's Leadership, UW-Green Bay.

1994 Linda Budz has been hired as the director of business development for Hilco Commercial Industrial.

1996 Holly Verdeyen has been appointed as the United States defined contribution leader for Mercer.

1996 Scott McMahon received his MBA from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in December 2021.

1997 Scott Menzel was featured in a WBAY article on his creative process. Menzel works out of his studio in Pella, Wis. "It's great to be able to create, to do it for a living," he says. "And then to have people see [the art] is probably the greatest thing."

1997 Chris Thompson has been selected to be the superintendent of the De Pere School

District, starting July 2022. Thompson has been the superintendent of the Rosholt School District in Portage County, Wis. since 2019.

1998 Ben Schill has been appointed as the CEO of Paper Transport. He is promoted from his former position of vice president.

2001 Jeff Johnson was promoted to the position of business lender at Community First Credit Union.

2001 Tim Stoltenberg has been appointed artistic director for the comedy troupe Dad's Garage. *Stoltenberg, who was previously serving in the position as interim, was featured in the April 2021 @St. Norbert article "Directing in the Dark."*

2002 Chris Hess has been appointed to Goodwill Industries International's Executive Council of the Conference of Executives and the Goodwill Industries International's Board of Directors.

2005 Lt. Col. Nick Bell has taken a job as professor of military science for Lincoln University's ROTC program.

2005 John Reid was named one of the "40 under 40" by Denver Business Journal.

2006 Rachel Sonntag was hired as the internal communications director for Fox Communities Credit Union.

2006 Andrew McIlree has been named chief development officer for the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota.

2006 Jim Healy has been honored with the Leader of the Future Award through Wisconsin Policy

Forum's 2021 Salute to Local Government.

2008 Chelsea Faese has been honored with the Nancy Armbrust Impact Award through the Women's Fund of Greater Green Bay. The organization celebrated Faese on International Women's Day for the work she's done to impact the community.

2009 Matthew Fox, who previously worked for Speedway, has accepted a position at Cultivate Advisors as a strategic business advisor.

2011 Matt Seidl has accepted a position as assistant coach for St. Norbert men's volleyball.

2014 Katya Makeyeva was featured in a student spotlight for the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences for her work in genetic engineering. The Kazakhstan native is investigating how small RNA pathways regulate gene expression of reproductive cells under the direction of Nobel Laureate Craig Mello. "For as long as I can remember," Makeyeva says, "I always wanted to be a genetic engineer. The reason I'm so fascinated by the field is because I always wanted to target the root of human disease instead of treating symptoms."

2014 Karissa (Kaiser) Seidl earned a Master of Education degree from Viterbo University in July 2021. She currently teaches in the Green Bay Area Public School District.

2014 Katie Hall has joined HeplerBroom as an associate attorney.

2014 Stephanie Birmingham is this year's Green Bay recipient of the Relentless Badger Award, a recognition of individuals

Mastering the art of lifelong learning

SNC graduates lifelong learners – and some of those learners have returned to the college, or its partners, to pursue one of a range of innovative master's programs.

Now an anonymous donor has added to the opportunities available to local teachers by funding a new education master's pathway via Green Bay Area Catholic Education (GRACE). Nineteen fully funded scholarships for SNC's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies course of study will be available to GRACE teachers – many of whom are SNC alumni. The program will follow a cohort model, giving teachers the opportunity to learn together. The same benefactor is funding a Top Teacher Talent Award of \$1,000 each for 20 classroom teachers who demonstrate excellence via a portfolio submission and essay.

For those in other fields, the at-St. Norbert possibilities include:

- The Master of Business Administration.
- The Master of Theological Studies, offered both in De Pere and, through the agency of the Abbey of Santa Maria de la Vid, in Albuquerque, N.M.
- The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, which is open to all qualified students.

The college also offers current students accelerated or early-admission pathways to a number of additional master's degree options:

- With the Medical College of Wisconsin, a Master of Public Health Degree partnership and early-assurance admission to the Medical College of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy program.
- With Concordia University, guaranteed early interviews for the occupational therapy, physical therapy and physician assistant programs.
- With Rush University, a Master of Science in Nursing program.
- With Bellin College of Nursing, a degree in nursing with a liberal arts foundation.
- With Marquette Law School, a six year, 3+3 path to a law degree.
- With Marquette University Graduate School of Management, a five year, 4+1 path to a Master of Arts in Applied Economics.



Buy me some peanuts and Crackerjacks

You can't have baseball without the ballpark food. It's essential to the experience, and for **Brianne Barta '21**, it's her job. Part of it anyway.

Barta transitioned from intern to manager for operations, food and beverage with the Wausau Woodchucks in spring of 2022 and hit the ground running, securing vendors, setting the menu and preparing for the upcoming season. She is a member of the Woodchuck's front office staff as the team enters their 29th season – she's the one in charge of the all-important ballpark frank.

Barta says: "We serve a lot of your ballpark favorites, your hot dog, brat and burger. Something that's a little more unique to the Woodchucks, would be our pulled pork nachos and Irish nachos. And everyone loves going for the cheese curds." And they go through them all in large quantities. "Our stadium, when we're full, it's just under 2,000, and we're hitting close to those numbers."

The Woodchucks play in the Northwoods League, a college developmental league. "Different college players will sign with the team and play all summer, homing in on their skills," Barta says. We play 72 games in 75 days, so it's really intense." Half of those games are at their home park, Athletic Park in Wausau. The league has teams across the Upper Midwest and one in Canada.

A love for sports led her to the internship and sparked the beginnings of a rapidly advancing career. "The reason I got pushed into working towards sports, I ran cross country and track at St. Norbert all four years. I just really love being around sports. I love what they teach kids – teamwork, hard work and resilience. It's an environment I really wanted to be around."

who go above and beyond to help and work with others with disabilities. Birmingham, who recently founded her own counseling practice, was nominated for the award for her achievements while working as the advocacy coordinator at Options For Independent Living Inc. Joe Theis, executive director of Options For Independent Living, said Birmingham's tireless advocacy and promotion of inclusion for people with disabilities in the community made her the perfect recipient of this year's award: "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."

At Birmingham Counseling and Consulting LLC, Birmingham will focus on issues of disability, chronic illness, post-incarceration and spirituality.

2014 Julia Muscarello continues her work in designing and illustrating limited-edition basketballs for major events (see Fall/Winter 2021). Her custom basketball for the NCAA Men's Final Four championship in New Orleans includes references to the host city like Mardi Gras beads, a fleur de lis and jazz music notation.

2015 Michelle Cheney has joined the college advancement division at St. Norbert College as philanthropic advisor. She comes to SNC from Lawrence University, where she worked as the associate director of annual giving.

2015 Mason Baptista served as the assistant coach to China's Women's Ice Hockey

Team at the 2022 Winter Olympics. Baptista won two national championships as a player with SNC Hockey and was selected as the Southern Professional Hockey League's MVP in 2021.

2016 Jeff Marquardt has been named the head coach of boy's golf at Wausau West High School.

2016 Mary Sobczak has joined the staff at St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere as communications manager. She joins the abbey from The White House, where she worked as the travel manager in the executive office of the president.

2017 Craig Beaumier (MBA) recently became the new owner of Consolidated Machine, LLC.

2018 Charlotte Bliss joined the Law Offices of Patrick Markey as a junior associate attorney.

2018 Ally Solowicz earned a graduate degree in counseling from Lakeland University and works as a school counselor in Oshkosh, Wis.

2018 Emily Brewer has been selected as a mentee of the Mentoring Program for 2021-22 as part of The Committee on the Status of Women in the North American Saxophone Alliance.

2019 Sarah Beckman (MBA) has been named as the new executive director for Achieve Brown County, which works to "advance positive, cradle-to-career outcomes for all young people."

2019 Sam Kalies, a graphic designer, has contributed new exhibit material for the Packers Hall of Fame with Wild Blue Technologies.



A treasured friend in Abbot Pennings

 **Carol De Groot '62** sat down to reminisce with the **Rev. Jim Neilson '88** about a St. Norbert education that began at the old St. Joseph grade school on campus. She shared new stories about an old friend, **Abbot Bernard Pennings**. Pennings presided at her parents' wedding 1924, intervened to make sure she was admitted to first grade, prepared her for First Communion and helped field her awkward questions in religion class. "He was a very kind person. We all loved him," says De Groot. snc.edu/magazine

2019 Alaina Mundt is the author of "Water & Earth," the newly published first book in her "Messengers" trilogy.

2020 Nathan Ortiz received a \$1,300 gift from the National Association of Music Education for use in his music classes at Mitchell K-8 in Racine, Wis. "I plan on updating the classroom environment with new visual aids as well as classroom instruments that all students will be able to utilize," he says.

2020 Brighid Riordan (MBA) has been appointed as CEO of Nsight.

2020 Devon Silver has deferred his acceptance to a physical therapy program at Washington University in St. Louis to accept a sports science and biomechanics internship with the Seattle Mariners.

2021 Sam Fonder is currently in a sport and exercise psychology program at Springfield College. He is also the graduate assistant coach for the Massachusetts school's baseball team.

The college mourns the death of two sisters in religion who received part of their education at St. Norbert. **Sister Cecile Baer**, of Rock Island, Ill., died Nov. 21, 2021, at the age of 93. In addition to a certificate of theology from St. Norbert, she obtained a bachelor's degree from St. Ambrose College and a certificate for teaching children with learning disabilities from the University of Illinois. She taught in several schools across Illinois and Indiana and served as principal at St. Boniface Catholic Grade School in Peoria, Ill. She later became the development director for St. Mary's Academy in Nauvoo, Ill. She is survived by her sister, Gloria, and her Benedictine sisters. **Sister Urban Schumacher**, of Green Bay, Wis., died Dec. 21, 2021, at the age of 96. She earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Viterbo College and went on to do post-graduate work at Notre Dame University, Marquette University and St. Norbert. She taught at St. Joseph School (Marinette, Wis.), St. Isidore (Osman, Wis.), St. Joan (Goodman, Wis.), St. Matthew (Green Bay) and St. Francis Pre-Novitiate (Robinsonville, Wis.). She later served as the worship director at Holy Innocents Parish in

Manitowoc, Wis. Sister Urban celebrated her 80th Jubilee as a religious in 2021. She is survived by her sister, brother, and her Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross community.

SNC alums are well-represented in the Greater Green Bay Chamber's 29th annual Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction awards. The awards recognize high-quality educators in Greater Green Bay in areas of professionalism, leadership and innovation.

Recipients include **Nancy Chybowski '15** (Langlade Elementary School), **Lauren (Kleiman) Schumacher '15** (Luxemburg-Casco High School), **Molly (Maher) Lucareli '12** (Webster Elementary), **Bryant Scherer '11** (Doty Elementary), **Katie (Larson) Kohtala '08** (Danz Elementary), **Jodi Kinnard MSE '08** (Luxemburg-Casco), **Crystal (Bueter) Trejo '03** (Luxemburg-Casco), **Amy (Wegand) Stover '92** (Notre Dame) and **Laurie (Brick) Lambert '80** (West De Pere High School).

Nominees for the 2022 WPS Volunteer Awards included **Gretchen Mattingly '77**, **Dean Stewart '88**, **Crystal (Bueter) Trejo '03**, **Kristy Harr-Krautkramer '01 (B.A.) '08 (M.S.E.)** and the late **Eric Blumreich '22 (MBA)**.

Grace Meyer '84 (on college roommates) and **Jasmine Gordon '17** (on meditating with the Dalai Lama) were among recent members of the community to be featured in the popular Humans of St. Norbert feature that runs Thursdays on the college's Facebook page. (Readers can follow the series at facebook.com/stnorbort.)

Billy Korinko '09 and **Ruth Tucker '22** were honored as 2021 Ethie Award recipients through Foundations Health & Wholeness for the contributions they've made toward creating healthy workplaces, schools and neighborhoods in the region. Korinko said, "Getting to do work that gets people out of their comfort zone – to get to create a space where we recognize that but, nevertheless, we try to engage in meaningful dialogue – it's incredibly fulfilling."

Tucker, who founded the Council of Indigenous People on campus, has been a prime mover at St. Norbert in raising awareness of indigenous culture.

New master's degrees from St. Norbert were bestowed on these alumni at this year's Commencement: **MBA: Scott Bunkelman '99**, **Hannah Copiskey '19**, **Morgan Schadrie '13**, **Mary Sobczak '16** and **Benjamin Vande Zande '18**. **MTS: Elizabeth Pfantz-Hokamp '16**.

SNCtalks, the college's new storytelling initiative held in April, featured talks from alumni, staff and students, including **Krissy Lukens '92**, **Zach Baeseman '05**, **Molly Maher Lucareli '12**, **Daniel Webster '17 MBA '21**, **Marcus Williams '21**, **Cara Orbell '22**, **Peadar McGrath '22** and **Tony Giordana '22**. Enjoy their take on the event's theme, "Own Your Impact," at snc.edu/snctalks.

Share your news! Submit your item at snc.edu/go/keepintouch.

 Keep track and connect with fellow alumni on Facebook. facebook.com/sncalumni



Banner evening to support what matters

May 19 saw the launch of a bold \$125 million campaign to secure a thriving future for a great institution. Guests joined the **Rev. Jim Neilson '88** (speaking, above), **President Brian Bruess '90** and **President Emeritus Tom Kunkel** to lend their support.

Flight of fancy

When the English discipline asked **Carolyn Papham '13** to design a sticker for their students, she looked around for inspiration. Around and upward. Under the eaves of the Pennings Activity Center, she found what she was looking for. The former high-school building is still adorned with the high-relief carvings once intended to inspire the young scholars within – among them, a wise owl reading a book. Papham, now a presentation designer at Wild Blue Technologies in De Pere, had found her muse.

"Despite the fact that I was on campus almost daily for four years and have been a regular visitor since, it wasn't until last year that I spotted the cool-as-heck, almost-centenarian owls," says Papham. "Still not sure how I missed them for so long, but I'm glad I spotted them in time to borrow their likeness for this project. It was a hoot!"



Making a century of difference

A very special happy birthday to **Shirlyn Miller**, who turns 100 this summer. Shirlyn, whose late husband's legacy lives on in the work of the Norman Miller Center for Peace, Justice & Public Understanding, has played an increasingly important role in running the Norman Miller Foundation since Norman's death in 2008. The foundation promotes the social and cultural betterment of all people, focusing on religious, charitable and educational purposes. In 2012, Shirlyn further honored Norman's legacy by endowing the Miller Center: a cornerstone gift that marks its 10th anniversary this year.

Leading edge

Some few years ago, it fell to me to take care of Elizabeth Edwards for part of a morning when she was on campus to stump for her husband, John, presidential running mate. She was good company and, as we were both working parents of largeish young families, we enjoyed pooling notes. Elizabeth had the impressive distinction of bearing children in four different decades but, as she said, you have to time it right: Her eldest was born in 1979, her youngest in 2000.

As editor at SNC, I seem to have "timed it right" so that, even at this remarkably stable institution, it looks likely that I'll see five St. Norbert presidencies before I'm done: Hynes, Kunkel, Bruess, Kunkel (interim!) and Number Nine, soon to be sought. If the hallmark of a democracy is the provision for the peaceful transition of power, perhaps the hallmark of a thriving college is an abundance of committed leadership at every level of the organization, plus the thoughtful provision of each successive president for the future flourishing of the institution and the wellbeing of their successor. Each one has been a boon to this magazine, its editor and to you, the wider community of SNC. Thank you, Brian, for your mission-driven, mission-vibrant term, and to all the eight who have brought us safely to this position.

Susan Allen

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Office of Communications at St. Norbert College, 100 Grant St., De Pere, WI 54115-2099

Printed by Independent Inc., De Pere



100 Grant Street
De Pere, WI 54115-2099
St. Norbert College Magazine

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"Nobody can be uncheered with a balloon." – A. A. Milne

