



Aquinas Scholars
HONORS PROGRAM

The

SCHOLARS JOURNAL

February 2025

STUDY ABROAD ALERT



I want to use the first journal of spring semester to remind you what this journal is for: to share how Aquinas Scholars engage with the world. It also gives study abroad scholars a way to earn their activity points for the semester. Send me a picture from your study abroad experience and a caption, and that secures your points for the semester. Scholars on campus can also get a point for each submission to the journal. A shoutout to the many scholars who sent me a submission this month. To get us started, I want to highlight Raiza Guzman who visited Taipei, Taiwan and Ben Barrett who visited Florence, Italy for sending in some beautiful photos!

FEATURED

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- "Manuel Antonio & Friends"
- "Hanoi, Vietnam"
- "Burnt Out Coffee"
- "Munich, Germany"
- "An Omission"
- "Scor 2025"

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MONTHLY MOTIVATION

Walking into the new semester, remember that you made it through the last one, and you can do the same with this one! Whether you're getting close to ending your first year, or graduating, YOU are worth celebrating! Good luck with this spring semester!



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MANUEL ANTONIO & FRIENDS

Ashley Binstock



Manuel Antonio is a Costa Rican national park where tropical forest and beach converge. In this protected area you're likely to be introduced to sloths, squirrel monkeys, toucans, and so many more little friends. At the end of the hike, enjoying a swim in the lagoon is a must as the waves curl around your thighs and you melt in a pool of blue.



HANOI, VIETNAM

Brooke Morin



This photo is from a market in Hanoi, Vietnam last month. Hanoi is the capital of Vietnam and the cultural, economic, and education center of Northern Vietnam. With many historical and architectural landmarks, Hanoi offered many experiences during this time of year. This picture shows a lady selling fish at Long Bien Market. The local markets were bustling with hundreds of stalls selling fresh produce, quality textiles, and flowers.

BURNT OUT COFFEE

Eleanor Cummings

Erik was always late for work. He could have been on time, early even. But he would stop on the way to grab coffee and the line took ages to get through. By the time he made it to work his coworkers would look up and glare at him from their desks. To make up for the missed work Erik stayed until he was the last one in the office.

He'd go home and stay up late watching movies only to do it all again the next day.

To the dismay of everyone in the office, the coffee machine was always broken. But how could it not be? It was running all day every day. Something can only heat up for so long before it burns out.

Sofia was not in the office today. After finishing a large work project, she took a sick day to recharge. She slept too late for coffee and instead made herself a yogurt bowl for brunch. She took her 2 dogs to the dog park to enjoy the warm spring weather. The smell of nearby flower beds was pleasantly sweet in the air. The dogs ran together, occasionally yipping and growling in play.

Sofia returned to the office the next day and made herself coffee from the new office coffee machine. Their boss had ordered a replacement as a reward for all their effort on the recent project. Erik was not in the office. He had to call out sick for he had caught the flu.



MUNICH, GERMANY

Abilgail Zwilling



On the weekend of February 15, I got to visit Munich, Germany. Munich is part of an area of Germany called Bavaria, which is largely known for its large festival at the end of September and early October called Oktoberfest. The photo is of Neuschwanstein castle, built by one of the last kings of Bavaria, Ludwig II, in the late 1800s. The story of Ludwig II is fascinating. He came to be known as the “mad king” because of his extravagant spending and commissioning of projects like the Neuschwanstein castle (which Walt Disney based the Disney castle on). The home I stayed in while in Germany was on the shores of Lake Starnburg, where Ludwig II died by drowning under suspicious circumstances. Many think that he was murdered due to the outrage regarding his frivolous spending.

AN OMISSION

Victoria Kurdyumov

Upon night stood my mind
gazing, glazing, at ink
not so far splotching
on blank canvas.

Until morning lit a
gray sky, thoughts
ran circularly without
much conscious blinking.

A bit was missing,
lost to musings during
blurry half-grown
half-sought moods.

My baby, my blood
my writing odd;
'Tis a strain to paint with no

SCOR 2025

Soren Gabor



<https://youtu.be/4kTOOYFc2L8>

A short montage of the UST Sailing Team's voyage to Charleston, South Carolina for an offshore intercollegiate sailing competition. We took second place in the J105 fleet, beating the Naval Academy, the Coast Guard Academy, Princeton, and several other prestigious universities.

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