



**Aquinas Scholars**  
HONORS PROGRAM

*The*

# SCHOLARS JOURNAL

may 2024

## SCHOLARS FINISHING SPRING '24



Congrats to everyone for closing out another finals season and wrapping up a wonderful semester. On behalf of the Aquinas Scholars Student Board, we would like to wish all graduating seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors. We would also like to thank our senior board members, Macy Meilahn-Kinard, Mary Burke, Ellie Patronas, Georgina Sugrue, and Harper Johnson, for all of their hard work and commitment to the program. We are so proud of you!

## FEATURED

## *Senior Sendoff*

### **Scholars Community - p.1-2**

- Thank You, Dr. Fort
- Scholars Research

### **Scholars Journal - p. 3-6**

- "Fostering Connections"
- "Nature"
- "Newtonian Physics"
- "A Virgin Illuminated"
- "Whispers by the River"

### **Board Contact - p.7**

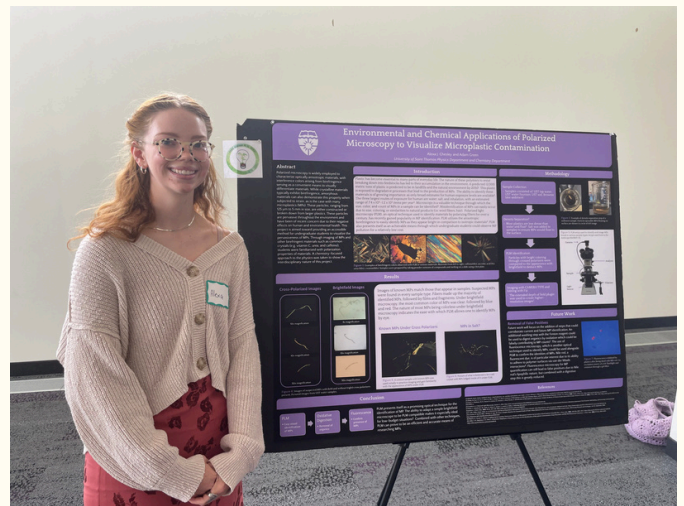
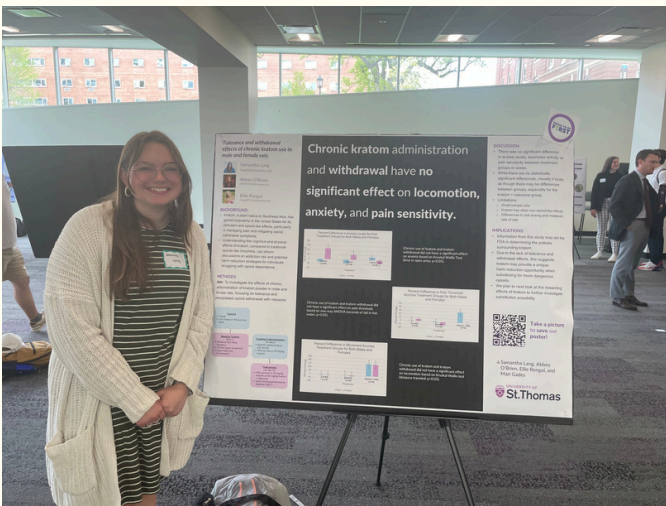


## THANK YOU DR. FORT!



Dr. Fort has finished his last semester as the Director of the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program. He has been in this role since the Fall of 2018. Thank you for your service, leadership, and care for all students - we are grateful for your commitment to the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program!

## SCHOLARS RESEARCH: INQUIRY POSTER SESSION



On May 9th, students presented their semester long research projects at the Inquiry Poster Session. Congratulations to the scholars who participated in research this semester! Scholars who performed research included Addison Asplund, Adam Baskin, Alexa Chesley, Aubrey Frey, Samantha Lang, Anthony Moriarty, Samuel Nelsen, and Noah Wenck.

[Click here to check out their research abstracts](#)

The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) is St. Thomas students' central resource for support of research experiences in any discipline or major. If interested in participating in research, please check out the UROP website for information and important deadlines.

[Click here for UROP website](#)

## FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

*Anne Baumann*



What better way to foster connection than through music? Tommie Fest offered the opportunity for Tommies to come together and participate in the thing that is sure to form memories: a concert. Echosmith's set had students waving their hands, jumping up and down, and singing along. A wet, stormy end to the concert ensured an unforgettable night complete with meeting the artists!

## NATURE

*Shanel Laizer*

Nature and all her gifts  
How could I miss the beauty she brings.  
How pretty is she with all her grace  
Peaceful is what my mind could place.

The cold air breeze across the face  
Reminding me that I'm wide awake.  
How I wish I could be the Wind  
And fly away to see what I have missed.

She hears and carries secrets  
How she whispers the tales of adventure  
And the beauty of living things.

I let the wind guide me on my way  
And show me what the world has to say.  
For there is no limit to what we will find  
Nature has more to show than what we know in mind.

## NEWTONIAN PHYSICS

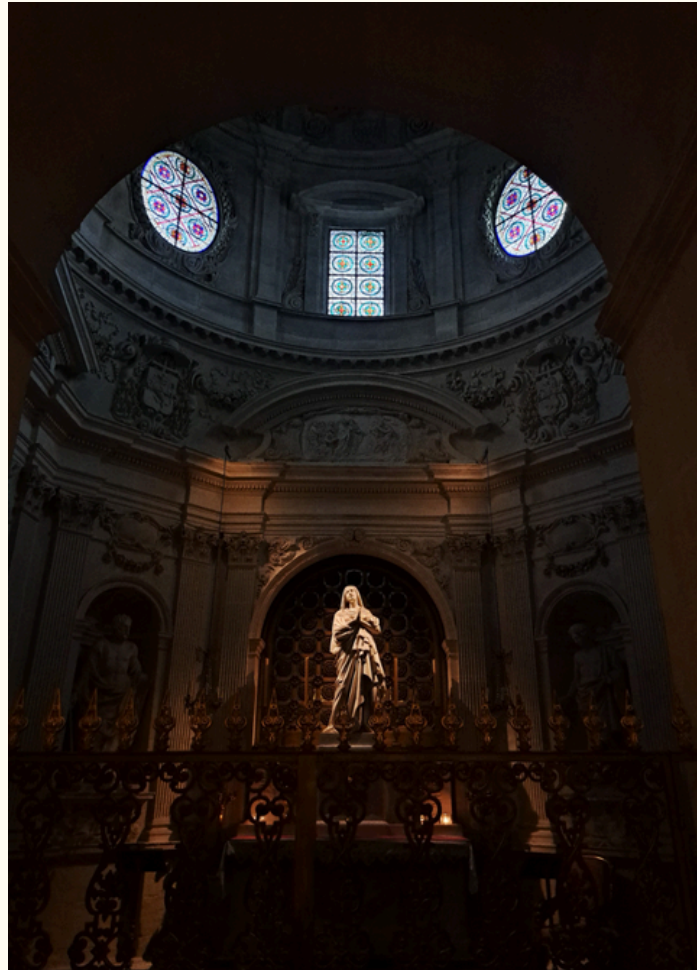
*Eleanor Cummings*

You have no idea how powerful you are.  
With just a wave of your hand you move the moon, the sun, and the stars.  
You won't ever see it, for it's such a little change.  
But if you can change such large things so far away,  
Just imagine what you can do about the little things down here.



# THE VIRGIN ILLUMINATED

*Peter Ratelle*



Studying abroad during J-term in France I travelled from where I was staying in Aix-en-Provence to Avignon where I visited the Palais de Papes which was an old palace where the Pope resided for a time. Next to the ‘Palais,’ was the Cathedral of Our Lady of Doms which I visited briefly. The Cathedral was open to visitors, but was sparsely populated, only having five or six people inside including the nuns who were tending to the sanctuary. This intimate environment made me more observant of the architecture and art surrounding me, and my eye caught a small side altar with the statue of the Virgin Mary surrounded by natural light from the stained-glass windows as well as some lights which were placed beneath the statue. The moment sight was striking, and one my favorite moments from my trip.



## WHISPERS BY THE RIVER

*Tucker Ritter*

By the river, clear and bright,  
A young boy plays from morn to night  
Skipping stones and watching skies,  
Wonder dances in his eyes.

Ripples shimmer in the sun,  
Each a tale that's just begun.  
Barefoot splashes, laughter's sound,  
Nature's secrets all around.

Fishing pole and dreams in tow,  
Hopes as endless as the flow.  
Dragonflies in fleeting dance,  
Cast a spell of pure romance.

Bending low to catch a frog,  
Leaping over a fallen log.  
Whispers of waters song,  
Guide his heart where dreams belong.

Evening falls, a gentle glow,  
River's lullaby starts to flow.  
With a heart so light and free,  
He'll return tomorrow, by the sea.



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