



Aquinas Scholars
HONORS PROGRAM

The

SCHOLARS JOURNAL

May 2025

MAY



As we wrap up this semester, I want to start by thanking the board and all the professors and staff who made this semester possible! Everyone has done such amazing work, staff and students.

#making honors proud!!

But looking forward, we want to congratulate Jack Taggart as the next honors president! We know that he will do a great job and are happy to call him our new president!

Good luck finishing up finals everyone!

FEATURED

Scholars Journal - p. 1-5

- "San Jose, Costa Rica"
- "Green Leaves"
- "Nature Everyday Beauty"
- "Psalm 145:9"
- "Rome"
- "The Anthology"

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MONTHLY MOTIVATION

YOU ARE ABOUT TO CROSS THE FINISH LINE!! You are amazing and really killing it this semester! Don't forget to be proud of yourself as we wrap up this semester (or already wrapped for some people)! On behalf of all the honors board, we are rooting you on!



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SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

Ashley Binstock



In May I said goodbye to San Jose, Costa Rica in this final picture of the sprawling city. Studying abroad here for four months has been an incredible experience that has broadened my perspective and revealed a lot about what I want for my future. Most of all, I have learned so much about the Earth. This picture shows the city at night from the surrounding mountains.

GREEN LEAVES

Kevin Lynch

They say spring is when campus “comes alive.” When it matches up with the photos on flyers and on websites — a haven of shady trees and lush grass that sparkles with sunlight reflected from kasota limestone. It’s the kind of campus Aquinas himself would be proud of.

So what is it during the winter? What kind of campus are we when the trees are barren and the sun is shaded in grey? When the only sparkles from the grass are crushed Christmas bulbs laying among pinecones?

Maybe the campus is the same; maybe it’s us who get clouded and barren. The green leaves emerge from cold branches to remind us that when we want it, that new life is here; our perfect campus is here. Whether we want it to be or not.

NATURE'S EVERYDAY BEAUTY

Jack Fischer



Recently, I had the chance to go golfing with my dad over the weekend and I was able to get a really good picture of a full moon while the sun was still setting. In my honors environmental ethics class that I'm taking right now, I have learned to better appreciate the everyday beauty of nature that's often taken for granted or overlooked in day-to-day life. This moment was special to me because I was able to reflect on the beautiful environment around me and how fortunate I am to enjoy it with the people who I treasure the most.

PSALM 145:9

Kate Olson



Spring on campus is my absolute favorite time of the year. The trees are in full bloom, and everyone is outside enjoying the sunshine. There is a special kind of joy seeing classmates outside studying or appreciating the weather that is greatly missed the rest of the year. I am especially grateful for the beautiful creation God has surrounded us with, not only in nature but also in the community around us. These moments we are reminded of His presence and goodness to us. Psalm 145:9, “The Lord is good to all, he has compassion on all he has made.”

ROME

Abigail Zwilling



My final week in Rome was an incredibly special experience. The conclave to select the new pope started on Wednesday, May 7, and my flight home was three days later. My roommate and I planned to go to St. Peter's square at 7pm on Thursday to watch for the smoke. But at 6:11pm, I heard bells start ringing and I knew immediately that they originated from St Peter's. My roommate and I ran all the way from our apartment to the Vatican. The closer we got, the more and more people we saw running. St. Peter's was packed, more so than when I was there for Easter. We managed to get inside the square before Pope Leo walked out to meet the crowd for the first time!

THE ANTHOLOGY

Rylie Butler



The album cover I chose to redesign is “The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology” by Taylor Swift. Taylor Swift is an American singer. This album includes 31 tracks and is for Taylor Swift a long-form reflection on both current and past events and emotions she has experienced throughout her life. The genre of the album contrasts its poetic lyrics full of analogies and symbolism by using synth-pop and soft rock sounds.

This album expresses Swift’s most eloquent and succinct retellings of various life experiences that have drained the color and energy from her. She’ll express them once more and then release them as an anthology.

I wanted the scene to look as if the author had pulled everything out from her life one last time, examined every detail of the full spectrum of emotions, each item, each memory, elicited from her, committed it to poetry, and left it all behind. To communicate this I chose first to include **signifiers** in technology and means of writing messages from many different eras with the hope that their **signifieds** would point my audience to a rich life of writing throughout many eras. I attempted to use **color** by choosing pieces and artifacts both from my life and references within the songs that were colorful, loud, and interesting. I paid special attention to **spatial organization**, leaving the center of the table blank and crowding the edges with the stuff collected from this life to avoid the setup looking too messy.

The artificial light I chose for this picture was one bright lamp onscreen and one lamp turned on its side to illuminate the colors in the image and to cast a slight shadow. I wanted this choice to enhance the picture by giving the impression that the lights are low; there is direct light only on the typewriter as the author finishes typing her post-mortem analysis of these events, takes the paper, and leaves it all behind.

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