



Aquinas Scholars
HONORS PROGRAM

The

SCHOLARS JOURNAL

October 2025

OCTOBER



MONTHLY RECAP

October has been full of energy and accomplishments for our Honors community! From getting creative at the Plant-a-Pot event to showing off our skills at Pop Culture Trivia Night, both gatherings were a huge success thanks to our amazing scholars and board members. We hope everyone enjoyed a well-deserved fall break and came back feeling refreshed. Keep up the great work as we head into the rest of the semester, and we hope you all have a fun (and safe!) Halloween!

FEATURED

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- "The Night of Halloween"
- "First Fall in Minnesota"
- "Red Rocks, CO"
- "The Mississippi River in Downtown St. Paul"
- "SPO Trip to Tettegouche"
- "Burgers in Rome"
- "San Francesco a Ripa Grande"

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THE NIGHT OF HALLOWEEN

Cindy Meisinger

I tiptoe upon the fenceposts
I flutter with the leaves
I glow within the jack-o-lanterns
And breathe the night breeze

I fade into the shadows
I crumble with the ruins
I wander with the ghosts-of-pasts
And illuminate the moon

I shelter the children's spirits
I guide their far-off dreams
I follow in the sweets-and-treats
On the night of Halloween

FIRST FALL IN MINNESOTA

Gital Sharma



As an international Student who arrived in Spring Semester this year, fall is more than just a season to me. While walking to my classes, I looked at the trees changing colors beautifully and it compelled me to reflect and reminisce back on the time I've spent here till now. The changing seasons are symbolic of the changing seasons of my life here in America. They are a reminder of how far I've come in my short-yet very life-changing time here. Spring brought new friendships for me. Summer brought new connections for me and Fall is bring new opportunities for me. I'm still trying to believe the fact that in just 3 months I will finish one year in St. Thomas and Minnesota



RED ROCKS, CO

Brooke Morin



This was taken at Red Rocks Park and Amphitheater, Colorado. It is known for its stunning geology, and for being a natural concert venue that hosts many famous musicians and events. This park is located just 15 mile outside of Denver and its elevation is around 6,450 feet. It is open for hiking, tours, or sightseeing, and is absolutely beautiful.

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN DOWNTOWN ST. PAUL

Evelynne Peterman



Taken from a deck located at the Science Museum of Minnesota in downtown St. Paul, this photo shows the beauty of thousands of years of geological processes. Inside the museum, one learns that about 12,000 years ago, the last ice sheet to cover Minnesota retreated and formed Glacial Lake Agassiz. One of the main outlets of Glacial Lake Agassiz was the River Warren, which generated Glacial River Warren Falls in what is now our familiar downtown St. Paul. One section eventually moved upstream on the Mississippi, becoming St. Anthony Falls. Thanks to these events, visitors and residents now get to enjoy stunning views like this.

SPO TRIP TO TETTEGOUCHE

Paula Fuentes Malata



Macy, Gianna, and I took a road trip from St. Paul to Tettegouche — my first time ever up there! As a Texan, I was amazed by the changing colors. We hiked, had a great picnic with others in SPO, and enjoyed the incredible views of Lake Superior — it was huge and absolutely gorgeous!

BURGERS IN ROME

Anna Hamvas

After being in a foreign country for so long, one begins to crave a piece of home. It is convenient, then, that a small group of us from our study abroad program managed to stumble across an unorthodox Roman restaurant just outside of our class building that served cheeseburgers. We began our meal with an appetizer of supplì, our latest obsession and a must-try in Rome. The meal was then completed with a massive cheeseburger and generously salted fries crisped to perfection. Once we had finished our meal, a worker that was not our waiter came to our table and proudly informed us that the burgers they serve are 100% beef with no added preservatives or fat, informing us that some did not like the taste. It was a spectacular burger, so that fact did not change anything. Authentic cultural experiences are a gift, but after a month and a half of them, it is okay to want something typical again. Study abroad is designed to challenge and change one, not to completely push one out of their home.



SAN FRANCESCO A RIPA GRANDE

Lindsey Nelson



I was given the opportunity to present on this church in Rome that was built in 1200 for twin saints. This church was later passed to the Franciscan order and was the first convent dedicated to the Franciscans in Rome. The art and architecture of this church brings meaning to the building by showing how these people value living out the gospel in everyday life. The simplicity of the baroque design goes to show glory in littleness and God coming to meet his children where they are. In this photo you see a small side chapel in which more quiet prayer is welcome.

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Ray Baldwin

We're deeply grateful to Ray Baldwin for five wonderful years with our program. We wish nothing but the best to him as he heads into his next adventure!