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APRIL 2023 EDITION

# The Scholars Newsletter

*St. Thomas Aquinas Scholars Honors Program*



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## Trip to Como

### *Social Chairs*

The social chairs brought a group of 18 Scholars to Como Zoo and Conservatory on April 15th! It was a little rainy, but it was still fun to see all of the animals and to take a walk in the warm conservatory. It was a blast to spend a fun Saturday at the zoo together!

## Second Harvest Heartland

### *Service Chairs*

On Saturday, April 22nd, Scholars visited Second Harvest Heartland and volunteered to pack food there. It was a great way to serve the community while bonding with other Scholars!



## Symposium Week

### *Symposium Chairs*

This year, our symposium theme was "The Power of the Arts." Events included a campus-wide scavenger hunt with amazing prizes, a lecture on water and art by Professor Mike Klein and artist Sandy Spieler, and a supplies drive for Art Buddies, an incredible organization providing children with an outlet in art after school. We had great attendance and are thankful for another successful symposium!

# For My Mother

*by Betsy Schoenwetter*

My voice sounds like my mother's  
Spoken low with glottal fry.  
The likeness makes me shudder.  
Just alike are she and I.

When she says, "Oh my word!"  
Or, "For Peter, Paul, and Mary!"  
No one's sure which one they heard.  
The semblance sure is scary.

Try my hardest as I may  
To not be so neurotic,  
I blithely forge my way  
With choices more exotic.

I dyed my hair magenta.  
Such brazen impropriety!  
To peeve her in absentia,  
Knowing her anxiety.

Absurd though I may be,  
I truly love my mother.  
The fact remains, and good for me.  
I'm turning into my mother.

# Grandma Alice's Chocolate Chip Cookies

*by Katherine Bruns*

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups flour  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups old-fashioned oats  
1 tsp. baking soda  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  tsp. salt  
1 cup brown sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter (unsalted)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup shortening  
1 egg  
1 tsp. vanilla  
12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1 cup chopped pecans (optional)

## Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, combine the flour, oats, baking soda, and salt. Stir together and set aside.
3. In another bowl, combine the brown and white sugars, butter, and shortening. Use a stand mixer, handheld mixer, or spoon to incorporate everything until it is smooth and creamy. Try to make sure there are no butter chunks left.
4. Add in the egg and vanilla and stir until smooth.

5. Combine the flour mixture with the sugar mixture and stir together.
6. Pour in the chocolate chips and pecans and stir until they are well-distributed throughout the cookie dough.
7. Using two spoons or your fingers, create balls of cookie dough, about one inch in diameter, and place them on a baking sheet. Leave about two inches of space between each cookie.
8. Bake for 10-12 minutes, or until golden brown and crispy on the edges. Enjoy!

Grandma Alice's chocolate chip cookies are legendary. She discovered the perfect balance between crispy and chewy, chocolate and nuts, and sweet and salty. As long as I can remember, and even before that, this is the only chocolate chip cookie recipe that my family has used. Although Grandma Alice died a little over one year ago, I continue to make these chocolate chip cookies to remember and create the feeling of home. I have memories of baking them with my grandma, my mom, my brothers and sisters, and my friends in college. The concept is simple, and the ingredients are unoriginal. However, the experience of baking cookies reminds me of lessons learned, fun bonding experiences, and family history. Food is a central part of life and culture. Each person will attach different memories, nostalgia, lessons, culture, and meaning to a particular type of food or culinary experience. For my family, this cookie recipe will always remind us of Grandma Alice and special memories, and it has become a part of our culture.

# Puppet's First Day

*by Zach Knapp*



This was produced as part of Advanced Videography (DIMA 460). The video is designed to educate young children on the importance of talking to each other face to face, as well as to share some tips on breaking the ice. The rest of my class made other segments dealing with the similar issues, which are being compiled into episodes of our own TV show called Bobozapants.

Link: <https://youtu.be/hKWeS-raW3k>

# The Rainforest and Reef of Australia

*by Allie Kock*



Northern Queensland, Australia is home to the world's oldest rainforest – The Daintree Rainforest. This area of Australia is also where the Great Barrier Reef is located. At many points along the coast the 'Rainforest meets the Reef.' When I first got there, I was surprised how empty all the beaches were. I quickly learned that there is a large population of crocodiles that inhabit the sand and shallow saltwater, so it is not recommended to swim or walk in the area.

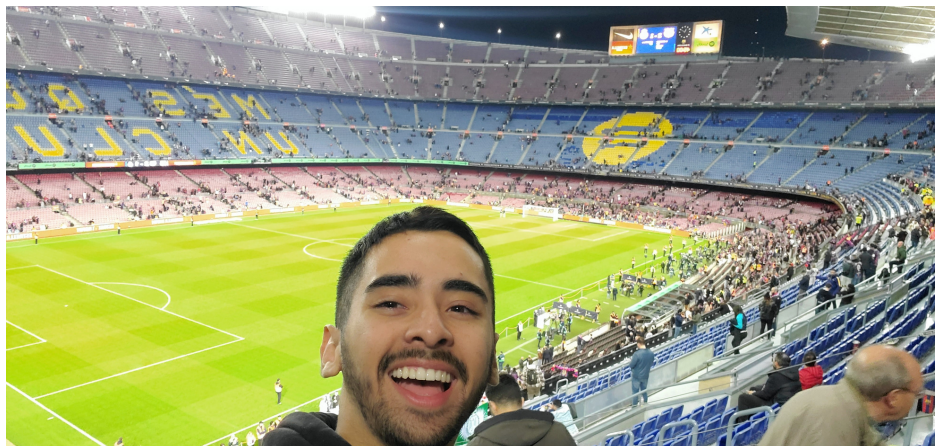


# Study Abroad in Barcelona

*by Sebi Cocco*



Hello everybody! Studying abroad in Barcelona has been a dream come true. I've been following the football team since I was child and have experienced every single up and down of this club since then. Even in the worse moments, I couldn't be more connected to the club. Now that I'm in Barcelona, I can finally be around other people that have the same passion for the club as I do. Since arriving, I've been to almost every single home game, including two El Clásicos. On top of going to FC Barcelona's men's first team games, I've been attending a few of Barca Athletic's (b-team) games, women's games, and youth games. After watching these sports teams from afar for so many years, I have finally had the chance to attend them and see all these players up close. The football culture in Europe is everything I thought it was going to be and I know for a fact that I'll be back.





# Trip to Scotland

*by Ethan Alm*



I am currently studying abroad in London with the London Business Semester. As part of the program, our cohort took a trip to Scotland for a weekend. In this picture, I am near a mountain off the coast of Scotland called the Storr. The whole experience was amazing. We were able to explore Loch Ness, we saw an old battlefield where the clans of Scotland fought each other and walked around the country's amazing nature. This trip was also an opportunity to connect with other students studying in London this semester!

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