



**Aquinas Scholars**  
HONORS PROGRAM

*The*

# SCHOLARS JOURNAL

december 2023

## SCHOLARS ENJOYING THE HOLIDAYS



On December 13th, scholars joined the social chairs for a Holiday Connect and Create at the create[space]. Earlier this month, the social chairs also hosted a night of cookies and comedy, where scholars joined together for the viewing of our favorite holiday episodes from popular sitcoms.

## FEATURED

## *Cookies and Comedy*

### Scholars Community - p.1-2

- Tommie Award Finalists
- Recognize Rondo

### Scholars Journal - p. 3-6

- "A Sailor's Journey"
- "A Surprise at Snowball"
- "The Finals Poem"

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## 2024 TOMMIE AWARD FINALISTS

Congratulations to Abby Kietly and Annabel Schueneman for being voted as finalists for the 2024 Tommie Award! The Tommie Award is awarded each spring to a senior who, according to UST students, faculty, and staff, best represents the ideals of St. Thomas Aquinas through scholarship, leadership, and campus involvement. Final voting will take place February 6th through the 8th.

*Abby  
Kietly*



**Major: Political Science**  
**Minor: Journalism**

*Annabel  
Schueneman*



**Major: History**  
**Minor: Political Sciences**

## RECOGNIZE RONDO



This fall, many of our honors students participated in the Honors Rondo seminar, taught by Michael Klein and Damon Shoholm. Throughout the semester, they have been educating themselves on the history and future of the Rondo community. Rondo is a predominantly black community, located east of St. Thomas. It was a rich cultural and residential center that was seriously affected by the construction of interstate 94.



The students concluded the semester with a hot cocoa and cider giveaway, where they presented a comprehensive document about the Rondo community to students and faculty of St. Thomas. Please take the time to learn more about the Rondo community by scanning the QR code below.



## A SAILOR'S JOURNEY

*Greg Bittle*

Around 2019 I finished close to last.  
My crew was sitting there shaking her head,  
she looked back at me to see my reaction.  
I smiled: Alright that didn't go well, let's change our strategy.

Around 2006 my dad let me steer for the first time.  
"See that water tower, that's where we're  
going, keep us pointed in that direction".  
I pushed and pulled the tiller back and forth,  
laughing as we swerved left and right.

Around 2015 I screamed into the air.  
My face was red and streaked with tears.  
I felt helpless as the other boats swerved around me.  
Mom asked why I didn't do so well.

Around 2008 I started out in prams  
I was a natural thanks to my time with dad.  
I helped out the kids who didn't know so much  
Little did I know I still had a lot to learn

Around 2012 I went to my first regatta.  
It was lots of fun and I sailed fast,  
Mom and dad were happy for me.  
Things were looking up



## A SAILOR'S JOURNEY (CONT'D)

Around 2017 I got to race at Sears cup nationals.

I was excited and ready to prove myself,

but I let my emotions weigh me down.

I left feeling frustrated and sorry for myself.

Around 2013 I was moved up to champ fleet.

The racing was so much harder than it was before.

I was angry and upset by my poor performance,

but I won the last race so that cheered me up.

Around 2014 my coach pulled me aside,

after I had another frustrating outburst at practice.

He told me I got this and when I'm zen'd out I'm fast as Heck.

His advice was helpful.

It didn't solve the problem.

Around 2018 I was feeling frustrated again.

I felt slow and had done poorly in the last race.

I was about to shout when I looked at my crew in front of me,

I looked around and stared at the lake in front of me,

I closed my eyes.

We won the next race.

Around 2003 my dad took me out in my cradle.

He and my mom cruised around smiling as they looked at me.

The wind blew through their hair as they headed to the dock.

Excited about the new sailor that had joined them.



## A SURPRISE AT SNOWBALL

*Cienna Becker*



This past weekend, a few of my friends and I had the opportunity to attend this year's Snowball held at the Minneapolis Club. We were invited by one of my friend's coworkers, who happened to be one of the hosts, and though we did feel a bit out of place surrounded by older, very wealthy individuals, we had an amazing time! The surprise of the night was discovering that our UST jazz band director Jeff Rinear was part of the live band (pictured center playing trombone). We got to witness some killer solos by him and the other instrumentalists, and talked to him and the band between sets.

## THE FINALS POEM

*Brenden Donohue*

Twas the end of the semester and finals were approaching  
It was a cold December night, and the fire was roasting  
The library lamps cast a dim, quiet glow,  
On students highlighting notes in a chaotic row  
Students ran about with textbooks, minds filled with fear  
But their minds began to fill with excitement knowing the end was near,  
For finals were a challenge they could get past  
And the next hour of studying would be their last  
Another semester, another year  
Now it's time to spread some holiday cheer



# BOARD CONTACTS

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