



Aquinas Scholars
HONORS PROGRAM

The

SCHOLARS JOURNAL

march 2024

SCHOLARS STUDYING FOR MIDTERMS



On March 18th, scholars joined the Academic Chairs for an evening of peaceful preparations for the midterm season. The next day, scholars joined together to make Car Care Bags for the Homeless with the Service Chairs. These bags are intended to be stored in cars and given out to the homeless to provide common items they need

FEATURED

Car Care Bags

Scholars Community - p.1

- This Month's Events

Scholars Journal - p. 2-7

- "Northern Lights"
- "Festival Orchestra Performance"
- "Leading from the Margins"
- "Scottish Highlands"
- "Vitamin C"

Board Contact - p.8



THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Trip to the Midtown Global Market

Hosted by our Social Chairs!

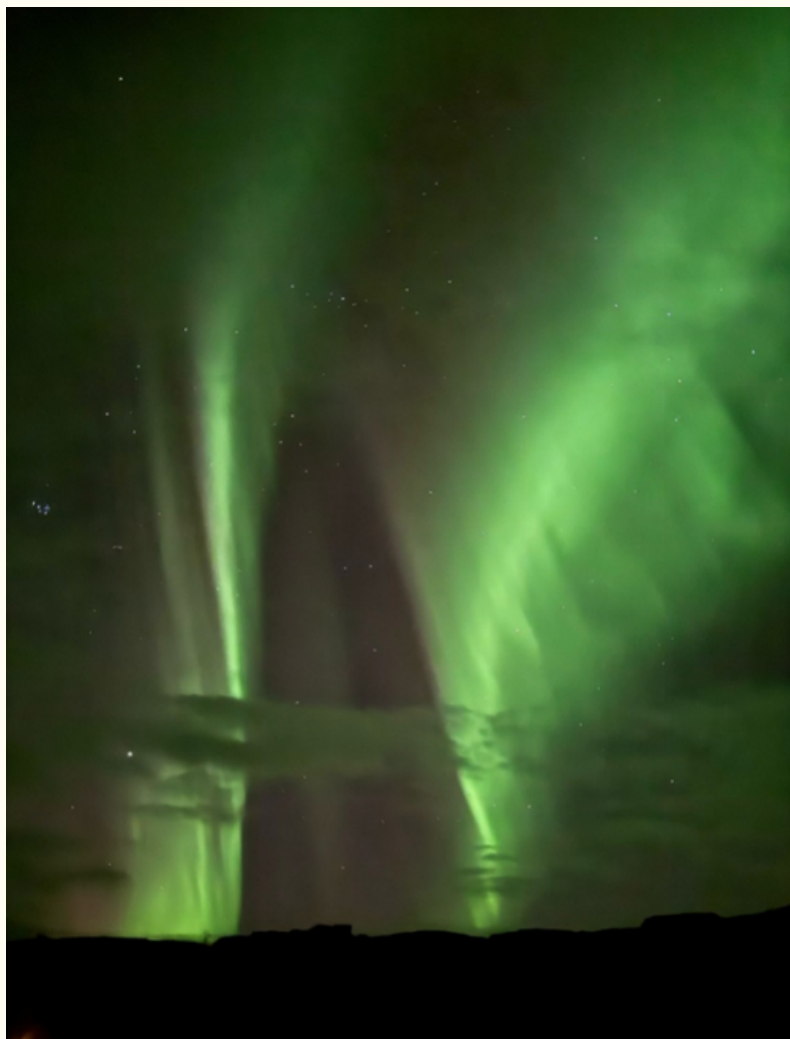


Flowerpots for Nursing Home

Hosted by our Service Chairs!

SEEING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Abigail Hutchinson



I took a weekend trip to Iceland, and it was absolutely breathtaking! Now I can check “Seeing the Northern Lights” off my bucket list. We were so lucky that the lights appeared for nearly two hours. The main color was green, and the sky was also filled with stars that made the night even more magical.

MY EXPERIENCE IN FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE

Cienna Becker



On Wednesday, March 13th me and six other undergraduate musicians had the opportunity to perform a concerto with a professional orchestra, which included many members from the Minnesota Opera and Orchestra. I had been preparing for this concert since September, so it was absolutely surreal to see my piece, titled “The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter” by Chin Cheng Lin come to life. What an honor it was to work with some of the best musicians in the state and perform alongside my extremely talented friends!

LEADING FROM THE MARGINS

Anonymous Writer

Identity constructs have long been perceived and discussed under the assumption of a strict binary, even regarding race to some degree. People are assumed to be either man or woman, straight or gay, and sometimes, even white or black. Throughout history, these categories have served to undermine the rights of others and are a poorly masked tool of marginalization meant to separate the “default” category from the “deviant” category. Straight white men have always been the dominant societal class, and binary identity categories only serve to uphold that standard. Over time, inclusive conversations that dismiss these binaries, include trans people, and begin to address intersectionality have broadened conversations about identity and brought complexity to what was previously assumed to be simple.

The tale of La-Roi Lobdell is just one of many stories of trans people being harassed, jailed, and institutionalized for presenting as the gender they identify with. In 1858, he was arrested and charged with “impersonating a man” here in the state of Minnesota before being found not guilty by Judge Robson. He lived with his wife Marie Louise Perry for many years, and was eventually institutionalized, and died in an asylum. The rhetoric that was used to ruin his life back then is rhetoric that can be heard today. Trans people are thought to be impersonators, fakers, liars, pretenders, and are constantly invalidated due to the assumption of deception. While this has been a longstanding harmful rhetoric, this is being combatted by trans activists, representation in pop culture, as well as conversations on and off social media. I believe the increased usage of “cis woman” has actually helped by (correctly) framing “trans” as one way to be a woman, rather than some false pseudo-categorization. In “Trans Visionaries” by Raquel Willis, Miss Major Griffin-Gracy shares an important remark that deserves to be emphasized. Within the context of the lasting harm of the Trump administration, Miss Major shares the importance of visibility, and that “this is a time that [they] can’t hide.” I believe visibility is also very important, and that fictional stories can sometimes reach people who might not be fortunate enough to have a trans role model or elder to guide them. Actors like Bella Ramsey are also breaking boundaries by speaking out about their own experiences. Ramsey was nominated for a Best Actress in a Drama TV Series Golden Globe Award as a nonbinary actor, sparking conversations about how these awards are gendered.

LEADING FROM THE MARGINS CONT'D

Intersectionality is also extremely important when discussing identity constructs outside of a strict binary. Race, sexuality, and gender do not exist in a vacuum, and one identifier can easily affect the experiences of having another. This was displayed by a 2020 survey conducted by the Center for American Progress, and explored how being a person of color can increase the level of discrimination already experienced by the queer community. The article begins by relaying the experiences of Kayla Gore, who is a Black transgender woman. She has experienced homelessness, assault, and injustice due to her identity. The article by Lindsay Mahowald goes on to explain the finding of the survey, and LGBTQ people of color consistently experience discrimination at a higher percentage on all fronts. In some of the categories, the discrimination that LGBTQ people of color experienced was twice as high as what white LGBTQ people experienced. The percentage that stood out to me most as a Nursing major was the fact that a whopping 68% of transgender people of color reported discriminatory treatment in healthcare. While this survey is recent enough that these problems still exist and must be discussed, the progress that is made by highlighting these discrepancies and recognizing intersectionality is extremely important and should be emphasized even more in the future.

There is still a lot of progress to be made regarding intersectionality and discussing identity constructs, but I believe that the progress being made is very tangible and indicates a positive historical trend of inclusivity. Stories like Mr. Lobdell's are heartbreaking and are not frequently discussed despite being scattered across American history, but the precise circumstances of his imprisonment cannot be found in Minnesota today. Stories like Kayla Gore's also aren't told as much as they should be but are starting to be investigated on a larger scale. Overall, I am hopeful that strict binaries will one day be a thing of the past completely, which will greatly improve the lives of all queer people, including queer people of color.

FOLKLORE & HISTORY OF SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Emma Franceschi



Spring is starting to peak through in the Highlands of Scotland with ancient castles nestled in the mountain peaks. The London Business Semester spent a weekend exploring the landscape and the history of Scottish culture, including a visit to the Eilean Donan Castle.

VITAMIN C'S SECRET COLORS

Alexa Chesley

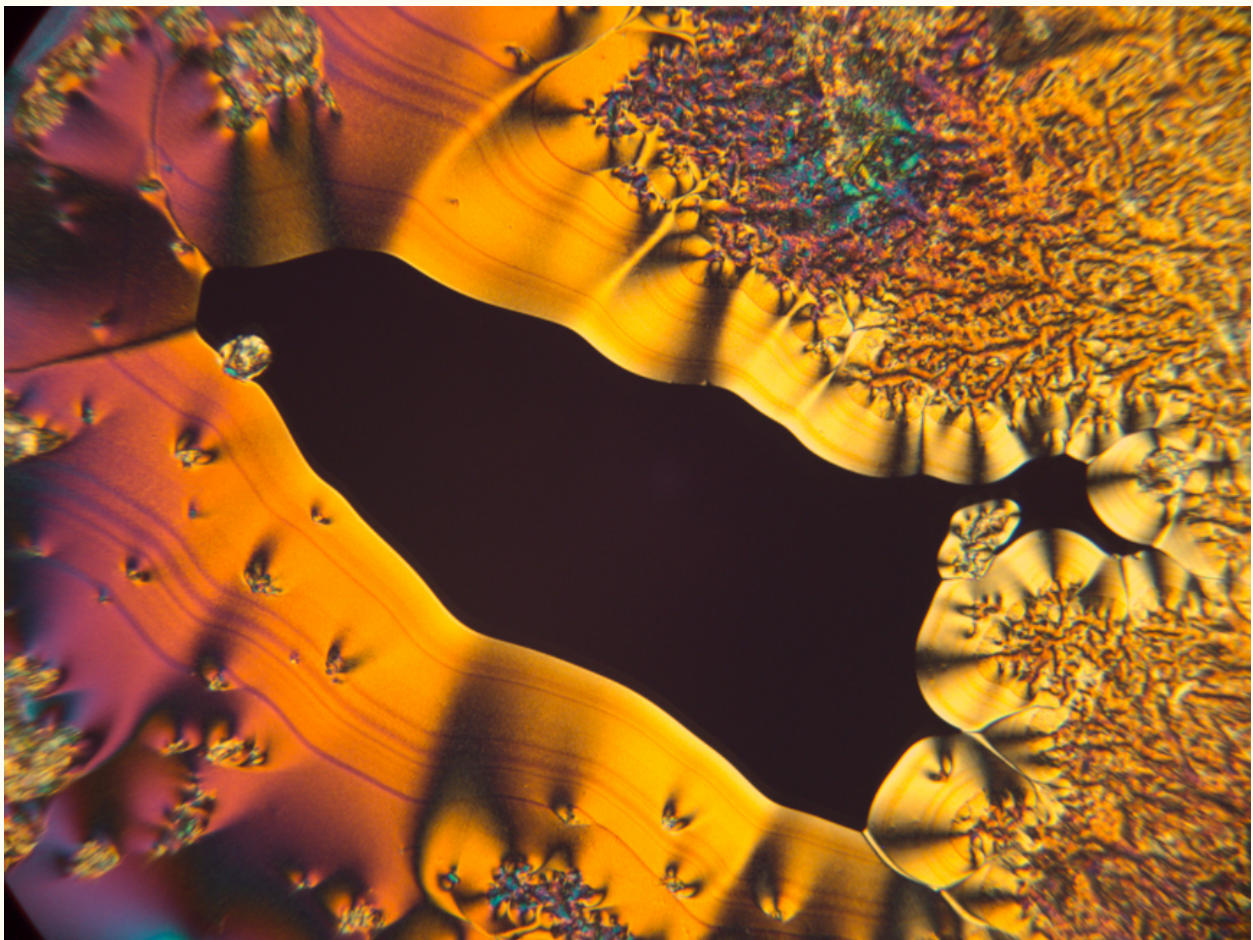


Image of crystallized vitamin C under 4x magnification using polarized light microscopy. The structure of the crystals viewed through polarizing filters leads to the separation and recombination of light to appear colorful.

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p. 8



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