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The Scholars Newsletter

St. Thomas Aquinas Scholars Honors Program



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Pizza with a Prof

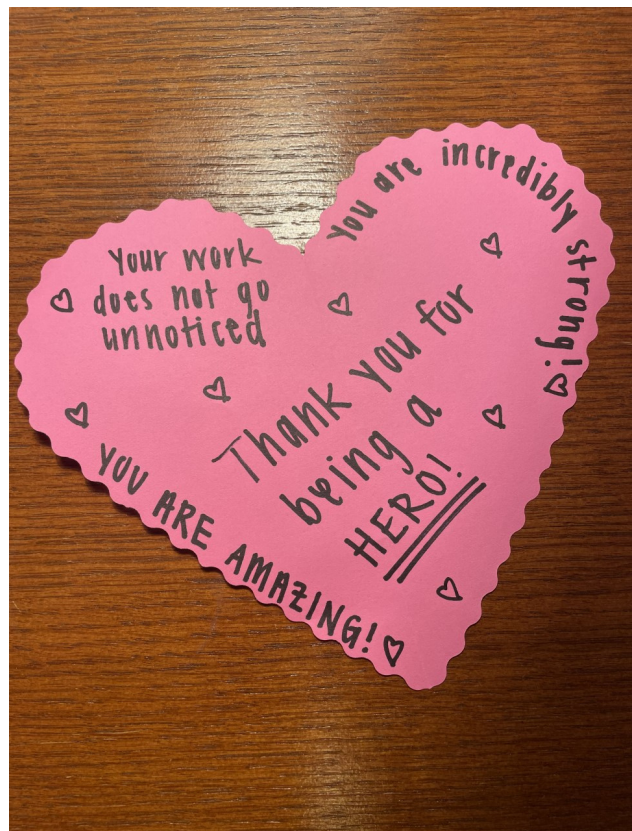
Academic Chairs

In February, the Academic Chairs hosted Pizza with a Prof (but hold the pizza- it was virtual due to the campus COVID cautious period) with Dr. Sheneeta White, who is the Associate Vice Provost of Student Achievement. Before joining administration, she worked in the Operations & Supply Chain Management department, and she was a fantastic, engaging speaker to 50 scholars about the history of the supply chain. She also discussed the COVID supply chain breakdown and how it isn't as uncommon as you'd think—similar trends repeat across history, so companies need to continue being adaptive and agile.

Hearts for Healthcare Workers

Service Chairs

The program's first service event of the semester was a huge success. In early 2022, the health care system in Minnesota was flooding with a surge in COVID-19 and flu cases. To thank local health care workers for their dedication and hard work, sixty-five scholars created paper hearts with messages of gratitude and inspiration. These paper hearts were sent to M Health Fairview Hospitals in the region.



A Scientific Quandary

by Makalya Quinn

Green signs pass by, all of them places I used to know.

It would be silent if not for the NPR radio host,
a fact that lodges itself in that uncomfortable space
between my stomach and my heart.

I wonder as the driver coughs if he feels how much I'll miss him
deep within the branching tubes of his lungs.

From the passenger seat I wish to scream,
wish to feel the impact of brakes, wish that God himself
will pluck this car from the interstate and turn it around,
setting it right.

Glancing behind, I see his partner
flipping through some sci-fi novel,
and I wonder if she is successfully distracting herself
from the fact she will only know me
through text boxes and windows on her computer screen.

A blue sign passes by now,
a respite for most who seek to pause along their journey,
but I do not wish to merely pause.

I wish to stay in some space between.

I am unsure if the other two feel the same way.

From the passenger seat I wish to hear them speak,
wish to see their eyes red and puffy, wish to crawl inside
their heads and know how they quantify missing someone.

Things I've Noticed

by Victoria Kurdyumov

As a freshman here at St. Thomas, I've had a whole semester to learn the ins and outs of campus. Below are some of my observations.

1. On the sidewalk outside Tommie North and Ireland, there's a sticker on the ground that's been there for the entire year. I thought it was going to peel off at least when it rained or snowed, but nope. Still there.
2. There's a fourth floor in the ASC, but only one of the elevators has the button to get to it. I've never been up there, but it sure seems spooky.
3. If you listen carefully, you can hear the sound of running water in the library's basement. Apparently, it's the water from the lake that was here before the campus. I'm curious why they kept the lake water and why it's in the library. I like to think that they did it just to mess with people.
4. According to someone (I don't remember who), the bell tower "bells" are just amped up chimes the music department recorded. Very cool.
5. There are purple paw prints painted on the sidewalk right outside the service center on South Campus. I have been trying to figure out their purpose and meaning but have no definitive conclusions.
6. LL18 in OSS is cursed and no one can tell me otherwise.
7. Near the campus on Snelling, the Midway Motel proudly announces "COLOR TV" and I think that's pretty funny.
8. The guy who made the St. Thomas Aquinas statue outside the chapel also made a whole piece called Angels Unawares for the Vatican. He has like five art studios, and I think one of them is in China. Anyways, my point is that it's a good statue but not as good as Chester the Jester outside McNeely.
9. The 87-bus sign right on Cleveland has slowly been tilting more and more. My prediction is that, by the end of the academic year, it will be parallel with the road.
10. I have counted 5 box elder bugs on the stairs alone in BEC. And also, one beetle. And a dime.

Have a great rest of the semester, everyone! Stay observant.

Chapel at Sunset

by Mary Burke



The sun set during the last thirty minutes of our drive. The sky was the prettiest part of the long road trip back to St. Paul. It doesn't hurt to remind ourselves how beautiful our Earth is and how blessed we are to live on it.

Essay On Naughton

by Anthony Moriarty

The “divided life” as described in the first chapter of *Getting Work Right* by Dr. Michael Naughton is the concept of separating one’s career and professional life from one’s private contemplative life. These two parts of one’s life are meant to help build up the other, according to Dr. Naughton.

They exist, in a sense, to deepen the meaning of the other with their own unique input on life: whether that be through creating with God’s laws of science and materials of the earth or exploring one’s calling through a deep and thoughtful prayer.

Dr. Naughton explains that these divided lives are what Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik calls “Adam I” and “Adam II” from the two creation stories in the book of Genesis; Adam I being the mode of life that corresponds to work and activity while Adam II corresponds to the mode of contemplation and self-knowledge.

Personally, I have seen the divided life between the Adams as a large problem in today’s society. I believe Dr. Naughton’s words very accurately sum up one half of society: that many become so taken up by their work that when they come home, there is nothing left of them.

While productivity has always been valued in a society, I believe that this focus of society on Adam I while leaving the Adam II out to dry began to take root during the time of the Enlightenment and particularly in the ideas of Marxism.

Both of these philosophical traditions focus on economy and productivity while claiming all else is a burden to setting people free. Thus, in their way of thinking, Adam II, which seems to only exist in terms of religion, must be done away with while religion must also be scrapped by association.

With more and more nations succumbing to secularism and various forms of Marxism, more and more societies are discouraging any forms of this Adam II mode and pushing on all their citizens the ideals of Adam I.

However, I must also make note that where I see many going to the extremes of embracing a life of only Adam I and rejecting Adam II, I see the opposite extreme as well which is equally unhealthy.

While a great percentage today are too focused in an unhealthy way with the activities of the workplace, a growing percentage of people are becoming the unhealthy equivalent of Adam II. So many of the younger generations have become degenerate and parasitic in that they rely on others to provide for them while they accomplish nothing greater than the world’s greatest couch potato. Their selfish focus of making only themselves “happy” similarly brings great turmoil with the imbalance of the Adams.

In conclusion, this unbalanced and divided life between the two Adams—between a life of career and a life of contemplation—causes ruin when not correctly balanced with each other since one without the other leads to self-destruction.

Abroad in Oxford

by Lucas Baker



Hello All,

Hope everyone is doing well back home. I am currently studying abroad as you may well know. I've been at Oxford for a little over 7 weeks now and I'm a third of the way through. Left you'll find pictures of Worcester College which is one of Oxford's 39 constituent colleges. Worcester was originally founded in 1283 as a Benedictine Monastery, but took its "modern" form after being refounded by Sir Thomas Cookes in 1714. Here I study Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics. If you'd like to learn more about the college and university please see the attached links.

Worcester:

<https://www.worc.ox.ac.uk/>

Oxford:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/about>



Gardens of Generalife

by Maggie Erpelding



Above is an image from the Gardens of Generalife, a summer palace of the El Alhambra. This is an ancient palace in Granada, Spain that was originally built by an Islamic state later conquered by the Catholic king and queen of Spain in the 15th century. The towers were part of the wall that protected the city, and the soldiers lived in the walls with their families to protect the city. To the right you can see the antique neighborhood of Granada called the Albaicin characterized by narrow and steep winding streets. Many of the houses are close together and white due to the extreme heat in the summers. The city has a deep cultural history each era with its own neighborhood and prominent religion. Today this city is characterized by its duality of cultures and history with a melting pot of traditions.

Upcoming Events

Check Canvas for more information

- On-Your-Own Book Reviews
 - *March 1st-31st*
- Second Harvest Heartland
 - *March 5th*
- Coloring Contest
 - *March 2nd-8th*
- Your Path to Career Readiness: developing and sharing your diversity, equity, and inclusion journey
 - *March 8th, 5:30-8:15*
- Mardi Gras Masks
 - *March 8th, 12-1*
- Pizza With a Prof (Dr. Paul Gavrilyuk)
 - *March 10th, 12-1*
- Snuffle Balls
 - *March 14th, 6-7*
- Midterm Study Oasis
 - *March 15th, 6:30-9*
- Independent Volunteering



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