



2020 November Edition
The Aquinas Scholars Honors Program
Editor: Ashley Burt

Dear Aquinas Scholars,

As we near the end of the semester, I want to let you know how very proud I am you all! For an organization built on being a community of excellence, the events of this semester have put this program to the test. Virtual events, remote learning, social distancing, and Common Good capacities strained our ability to come together. Health concerns, modality changes, and the stress of the times pulled on our drive for excellence.

Through it all and still today, you continue to be resilient and rise to the challenges! Your faculty in sections and seminars continue to tell me how impressed they are by the work you are doing. The Student Board has done a tremendous job developing new and creative events, and you all have done a fantastic job coming together and attending these events, even without free pizza!

I am incredibly grateful to you all for the hard work and good deeds you continue to do for the Program and the University. Though there are many unknowns in the weeks and months ahead, I am confident that one constant will be the Aquinas Scholars and their dedication to the principles of the program.

We continue to be here to support you as well. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or need connections to on- or off-campus resources in the coming months. I hope you have a good end to the semester and a safe and healthy winter break. I look forward to being with you again soon, when the circumstances allow.

Sincerely,

Dr. Fort

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Director – Aquinas Scholars Honors Program

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In case you missed it...

Seminar Showcase

Praxis of Race & Racism



Improvisation for Life



Music and Athletics



Turkey Coloring Contest



Most Creative: Sydney Wozniczka, **Most Artistic:** Maggie Erpelding,

Wackiest Winner: Emma Buisman, **Best Fit for 2020:** Eli Long

Scholars Journal

Gratitude in All Things

Daniel Obendorf

One of the best parts of Thanksgiving is the reminder that despite what is going on around us in our lives or in the world, it is necessary to stop and be reminded that we should give thanks for the good things we have in our lives. Whether that be family, friends, blessings, gifts or success, gratitude reminds us that, first, we must realize we have been blessed with what we have and, second, we must have hope that those blessings will continue to come to us. Despite what we may feel sometimes, there is always something to be thankful for. There is always some good in our lives in the midst of the chaos and evil that we can stop to recognize, be thankful for, and be hopeful that more things to be thankful for will follow.

Although it is already difficult enough to be thankful for the good things we have, St. Mother Teresa reminds us of another aspect of giving thanks, “the best way to show my gratitude is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy”. I think I am safe in saying that we can all see the difficulties and problems in our lives and in the world. However, Mother Teresa teaches us that the best thing we can do to give thanks is to accept what is going on in our lives, good and bad. At first this seems like an odd response to have, but we must also remember the second half of thanksgiving, hope. Mother Teresa tells us that when we accept our problems with joy, we remind ourselves that things will get better. Behind every struggle and setback is a chance for greater good and greater joy. Mother Teresa exhibited this well in her life as her struggles and pains to serve the poor and dying of Calcutta led to her being able to give the hungry food, the dying a bed, the lonely comfort, and the sick medicine. So, this Thanksgiving going into Advent and eventually Christmas, let's give thanks for the blessings of our lives and see all conflict and struggle with the hope that something good can eventually come of it.

Scholars Journal

Logo Design Competition

Grace Hallen



This is for a logo design competition that takes place at a conference held each year in a different U.S. city. For my design class, we were told to design a logo for the year 2022, as submission dates for each competition are set far out in advance. The logo is supposed to be representative of the city for that year, which will be Detroit. I decided to play with their People Mover sky train, a mode of public transportation that runs right past the GM Renaissance Tower. I thought it was a unique landmark and something that differentiates Detroit from other U.S. cities. The requirements state that the graphic must be in black and white, which I probably wouldn't have chosen on my own. However, I really like the contrast of the skyline with the train itself. I also was instructed to keep it simple – the original copy included much more detail such as, windows on the buildings and definition for the train.

I am proud of this final product and believe it represents Detroit in a unique way.

Scholars Journal

The Carnival

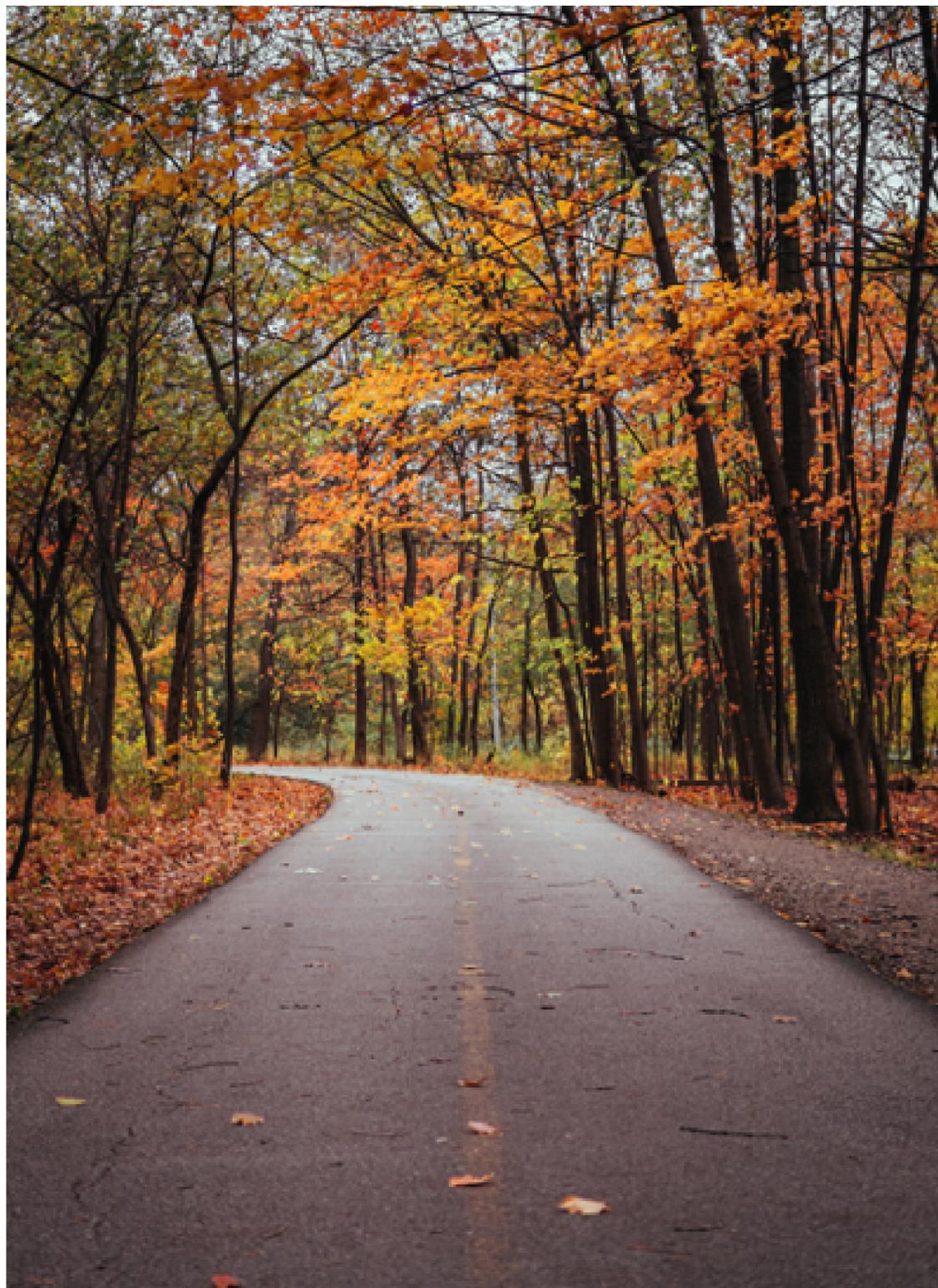
Izzy Iloff

I press my fingers deep into my eye sockets, groping for memory that won't come. A gardenia unfurls velvet folds from my lips and I choke down waxy green leaves. Spit. Summer snow burnishes to faint gold and then the stamen sprouts spider legs, clicking black joints in the filtered light. Speak. Petals turn to yellow rot and the overture of apathy drags my marionette legs to the sweetheart's grotto. The carnival has arrived with expectations of a destination and I won't go. Flies land on my skin, dig barbed feet in and in. I am difficult to grow. Press again and the double bloom spirals into psychedelic splendor, grotesque colors spilling into the sharp tang of sweet uncertainty. I paint my skin in pigments that bleed, eclipse the orbit of desolation with riotous bursts. Tell me I'm beautiful: masquerade in flickering lights and cloaked cologne, and thirst.

Scholars Journal

Fall Leaves

Nathan Kuhlman



One of my favorite parts of fall includes seeing how the leaves change color in different places. Although my classes are remote this semester due to COVID-19, I have been fortunate to be able to take walks through nature in the forests that surround my hometown, just outside of Chicago. The vibrant and diverse colors prevalent on this trail reminded me of how beautiful UST looks at this time of year. Furthermore, it made me wish I could be on campus to see it in person.

Things to look forward to!

1

Come play winter themed bingo for some festive prizes to beat your winter blues. Check your emails for more information!

Thursday, December 3rd

BRRR BINGO



COOKIE BAKING CONTEST!

Bake your favorite holiday cookies or treats and send in a picture by December 20th!

2

Good luck to everyone in completing end of the semester projects and studying for finals! You all can do it!



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