
MARCH 2023 EDITION

The Scholars Newsletter

St. Thomas Aquinas Scholars Honors Program



EDITOR:

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Open Arms Minnesota

Service Chairs

The service chairs brought a group of Scholars to Open Arms Minnesota, where they were able to tour the facility, learn about Open Arms' mission, and package meals for the critically ill and their caretakers in Minnesota. The meals consisted of fresh and nourishing food to aid in the healing process.

Paint and Sip

Social Chairs

The CreateSpace hosted a super fun canvas painting event on March 14th! Scholars enjoyed beverages and snacks while embracing their inner artist. It was a relaxing way to spend midterm week and bring home some fun décor. Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed our event!



Midterm Study Oasis

Academic Chairs

The academic chairs hosted the semester's Midterm Study Oasis in ASC 340 on March 9th from 7pm-9pm. We were joined by over 80 scholars who enjoyed a hot chocolate bar and cookies! It was a fun night of collaboration, studying, and conversation!

Two Scholars Named Fulbright Semifinalists



Two Aquinas Scholars were named semifinalists for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program! Laura Hankins, a neuroscience major, applied to do a combination of research and teaching in Austria. Alli Preece, majoring in Spanish and political science, applied to teach English in Colombia. They are two of three students chosen from St. Thomas. Congratulations!

Scholar Spotlight: Megan Kimball

CAM Talk in February



In the middle of February, Megan gave the Center for Applied Math talk about her summer research on Power Domination. She won the CAM Outstanding Research Award for her research working with Dr. Anderson and Dr. Kroschel. It was a great opportunity to present the information to the public and show off all her hard work throughout the summer and J-Term working on her presentation and research.

In the Jungle, the Mighty Jungle

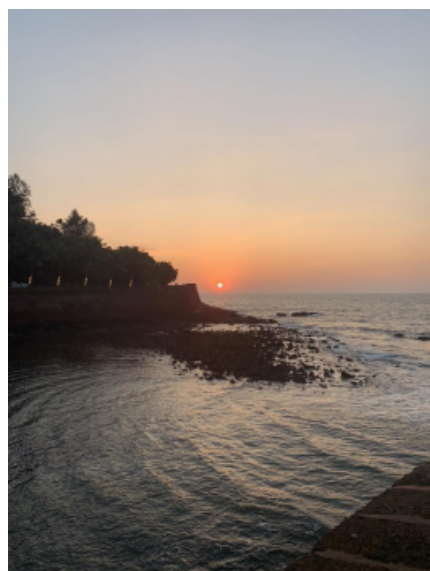
by Anna Tagarelli



During J-Term, my family and I took a trip to Goa, India, where we went to the beach, visited some temples, enjoyed some delicious Indian food, and explored the jungle in South Goa - Dharbandora.



QUIL WATH,
HYDERABAD



CANDOLIM BEACH



VAGATOR BEACH

On Beauty

by Sophia Shamp

Beauty (noun):

A combination of qualities that appease the sight in an aesthetic manner.

The rest is up to interpretation based on everyone's worldview. One could declare the most stereotypical ugly frog is a concept of nature's wild and unruly beauty. Their neighbor could blatantly disagree and simply define it as ugly. There is a common saying that goes "beauty is in the eyes of the beholder." This popular phrase, used in modern media, indicates that there is not one singular standard of beauty.

It is an ever-changing concept varying from human to human, species to species.

Beauty would be synonymous with professional runway models, sleek and chiseled. With mountainous regions and unruly rivers that are daring and incomprehensible. Beauty is everywhere. Who are we (mere imperfect, sinful humans) to define beauty?

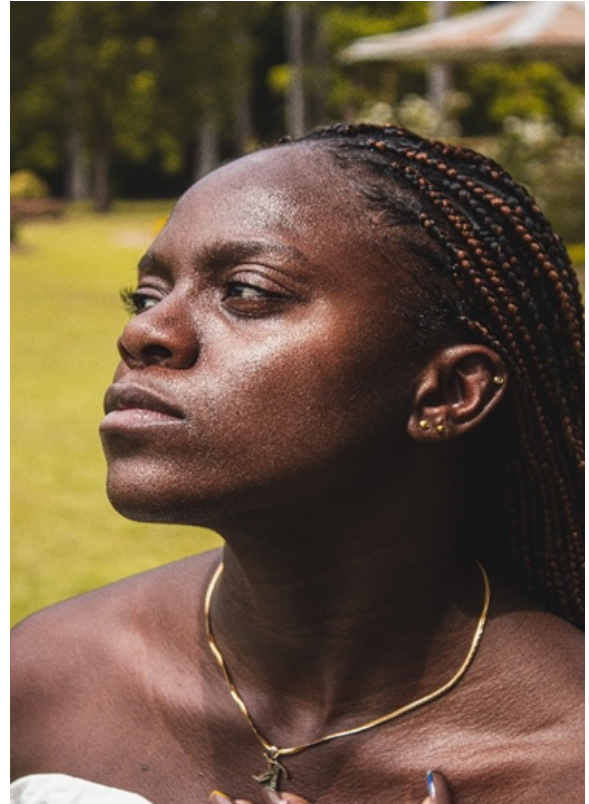
The conceptualized beauty standard that many women are subject to has been constructed through public judgements.

This judgment-based standard is completely contrary to the standards of ancient Greece, Victorian era Europe, and even 1900's America.

Beauty is fluid and subjective to each singular individual.

Value "You"

by Kori-Ann Hermitt



To the person reading,

There was a time you may have felt so alone, trapped, and suffocated. Felt as if there was no hope, but there you were... a light in the darkness. Your fire, passion and selflessness were a haven, and the joy was admirable. In the golden seasons of life, you just needed one person to believe in you enough. One person to give you a reason to move forward, a reason not to end your life, a reason to believe you are worth loving... and that was you. When no one else was watching, you tended to your tears. You listened to your heart when words were unbearable to say. You tended to my wounds when blood seemed to flow perpetually, and most of all loved yourself while you were busy loving everyone else. A light is not what you became, it's who you are, and it was that light that made you. There would have never been a 'YOU' without your ability to know who and what you were called to do, sticking by it and never allowing the words, thoughts or actions of others to shift or distract you. You helped find yourself in a world that still seeks validation from others around.

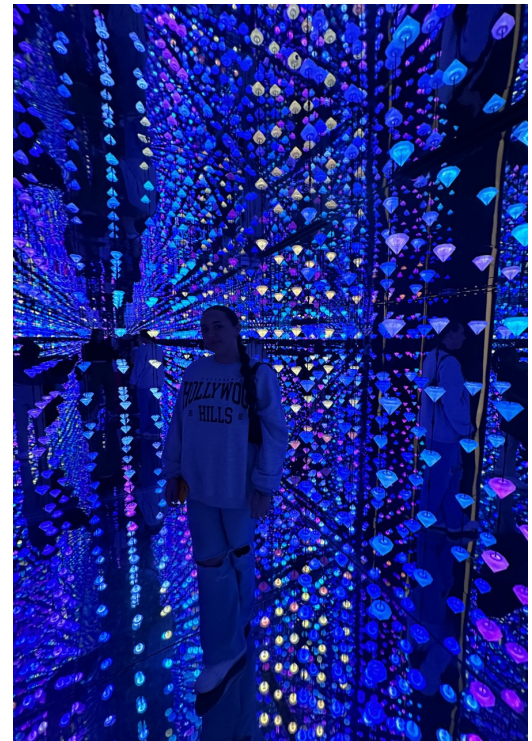
And even in that, you remained humble, and now your light is shining in the lives of those you know and don't. Despite the many hardships, you were that tower of strength you needed the most. You are a living testimony. And it's that testimony that continues to make a difference. You are handpicked for a time like this. You are APPOINTED, ANOINTED and SET APART!

Study Abroad in Barcelona

by Anna Wachholz



I am standing in the center of the cloister of the Cathedral in Monserrat, Spain. I spent an afternoon in Monserrat where we toured the small town, tried foods from local farmers, and got to see amazing views from the overlooks.



This is me in the MOCO museum in Barcelona where I am studying this semester. The MOCO museum is a new and widely known museum of modern art. I am standing in one of their very well-known exhibits called Digital Immersive Art by Studio Irma x MOCO.

This is me standing in front of a room in the Bahia Palace in Marrakech, Morocco. The Islamic architecture and artwork in this palace was beautiful. It was funded by and made for Si Moussa. Morocco was by far my favorite places I have visited so far on my semester abroad.



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