
SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION

The Scholars Newsletter

St. Thomas Aquinas Scholars Honors Program



EDITOR:

Ellie Lange

Featured in this Edition:

- Scholars Community:
 - Wild Rice Festival (p. 2)
 - Bowling & Snacks (p.2)
 - Career Center Crash Course (p. 2)
 - Professor of the Year (p. 3)
- Scholars Journal:
 - "Near an Empty Rink" (p. 4)
 - "Misericordia" (pp. 5-6)
 - "The ABC's of Storytelling" (p. 7)
- Upcoming Events (p. 8)
- Board Contact (p. 9)

Wild Rice Festival

Service Chairs

We ended up having 10 total students, which was a perfect number. On arrival we were given tasks to do, and we helped facilitate the events at the festival. Wild Rice Festival is about learning about Native American culture, and we were able to work with other volunteers and those who came to visit. There was a variety of crafts, live music, and food. We helped organize these events and clean up afterwards. It was a great time!

Bowling & Snacks

Social Chairs

Early in September, we held a Bowling and Snacks event in order to kick off social events for the semester. This event was a resounding success! We had over 60 scholars attend and take part in bowling, ping pong, pool, and skeeball. Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun, and there was a lot of great interaction among the scholars. I know a majority of the students who attended were first-years, so it was great to see them getting to know each other a bit better and having fun!



Career Center Crash Course

Academic Chairs

For this event, we invited a guest speaker from the Career Development Center on campus to speak about networking and securing a job after graduation. Our speaker, Amber Bieneck Thom, did an excellent job showcasing all the tools at students' disposal via the Career Development Center's website: a job fair search engine, a networking website just for Tommies, and much more. We think that everyone who was there will benefit from at least knowing that these resources exist. That said, there were approximately 30 attendees, and they seemed to be engaged in Amber's presentation, asking some great questions at the end. So, it appeared to be a success, and we'd like to collaborate with Amber again in the future.

Professor of the Year



Dr. Todd Lawrence, this year's Aquinas Scholars Professor of the Year, is pictured above with his award next to Honors Board President Cameron Schultz. Scholars had the honor of hearing him speak at the New Scholars Banquet and watching his presentation on the Urban Art Mapping Project.

Near an Empty Rink

by Kaitlyn Maher

The birds have returned.
Cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, finches—
chanting a chorale melody.

Avian glossolalia.

The chirping signals a quiet cheer.

Or is it relief?

Contentment after surviving the rainfall.

They're calling out to their kin
and answering, finding each other.

The downpour has reshaped the environment.

Cleansing and clouding
in equal part.

A burnished murk.

May the vitality of nature
never cease.

Misericordia

by Emilee Wondra

Around and around and around
Doubts swirl around my head
Muddying my self perception
Until I no longer know
Who I am
Who am I?
I sink deeper into despair
At the bottom of the pool I mourn
For I only know darkness
But I am not alone
Suddenly, a flame and a voice
"Have no fear for I am He"
A hand reaches out to me
And pulls me out of the deep
One glance at His Merciful Face
And I'm cast into the depths again
But no longer the cold lonely waters
Instead, the warm and wondrous depths
Of His Most Sacred Heart
It burns out of love for me
For me?

My heart aches to become His
And I rest assured in the flames of His love
That He is mine and I am His
One heart, broken and afraid
Pulled from the depths and touched by a flame
Molded into a little servant of His Most Sacred Heart
Strengthened by His touch, I make a vow:
For as long as I live, I will seek the downcast souls
And show them Your Miraculous Heart
Burning for love of them
Thank you, O Most Holy One!
Amen.



The ABC's of Storytelling

by Cecilia Becicka

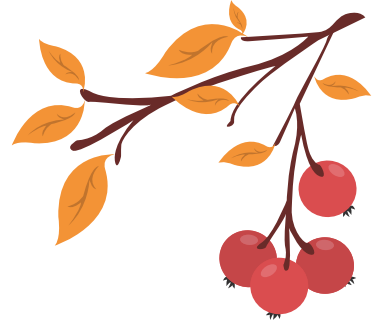
YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/f7t87JmYPsY>



This is a short story/performance of how to be a good storyteller. I made it as a creative writing exercise with some friends, and it was inspired by the song "Langtree's Lament." I hoped to play with the alphabet in a clever way to create a story that is entertaining to children and adults alike.

Upcoming Events

Check Canvas for more information



- Purple on the Plaza
 - *October 9th, 11-1 pm*
- Apple Orchard Trip:
 - *October 10th, 11-1 pm*
- Cardmaking for Children in the Hospital:
 - *Week of October 11th*
- Pizza with the Prof:
 - *October 14th 12-1 pm*



Board Contact



Cameron Schultz, *President*
schu2463@stthomas.edu



Rachael Binstock, *Vice President*
bins7418@stthomas.edu



Megan Smith, *Webmaster*
smit2829@stthomas.edu



Ellie Lange, *Publications*
lang3347@stthomas.edu



Eric Fort, *Faculty Director*
fort5372@stthomas.edu



Erica Berglund, *Administrative Assistant*
berg7582@stthomas.edu