

# St. Norbert

College Magazine | Spring 2020

**Extreme  
Heels, M**  
18th century

... until the F  
Revolution.  
fashion was  
close to the



**Extreme High  
Heels, Women**  
16th century

Catherine de Medici  
first appropriated the  
look for women.

## Sole Survivor

Dangerous footwear  
and our deadly  
dance with beauty

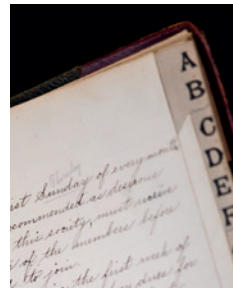
## In Print

Vol. 52, No. 1, Spring 2020



### Page 11

Each November, the Duck Creek Crossing Singers with dancers from the Oneida, Ojibwe and Ho-Chunk nations come to campus to offer a dance and drum demonstration.



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"The person who was writing the minutes the very first year, I really got a sense of him. He was kind of sarcastic but he also had just a beautiful way of writing. Not very concise at all; but it was the storytelling of the group, not just the facts." – **Shelly Mumma** (Student Affairs)



### Page 31

At 85 years old, and in her 60th year as an educator, **Ann (Morneau) Hollenback '56** has no plans for slowing down. "I have five classes and a study. I'm full-time," she says. "I haven't thought about retiring."

## Departments

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## Cover Story



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#### Beauty & Death

Miss hitting the books? In this new occasional feature, your St. Norbert education continues as we profile a course or lecture taught by our own faculty. (And this time, there's no final!) Join **April Beiswenger** (Theatre Studies) for Lecture 8 in her History of Clothing & Fashion course.

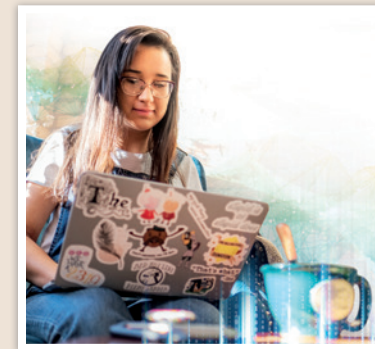
**On our cover:** Dangerous footwear and our deadly dance with beauty: sketches by Beiswenger.



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#### Balancing Act

Living a healthy, balanced life means being intellectually stimulated and spiritually nourished. It encompasses stable finances, working at a job you love, and having friends and family who support and engage you. It's living and exploring in a safe, nurturing environment, following your passions and daring to dream.



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#### According to the Research

Two SNC undergrads are acquiring an understanding of the research landscape that would be the envy of many already well into their grad school careers.

## Online

A sampling of related content available at [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine).



**In snowy weather:** As the seasons transition, we say farewell for now to winter fun on campus (**page 5**).



**In the teeth of the evidence:** A bill named for an undergrad bound for dental school (**page 8**) makes its way through the Wisconsin Legislature.



**In its first season:** SNC launches its 12th men's sport (**page 9**).



**In perspective:** Two SNC alums have gone public on their own health stories in order to encourage and educate others (**page 20**). We spoke with **Jenny Scherer '10** and **Molly Schroeder '13**.



**In pursuit of fashion:** How deadly is your closet? Take our clothing quiz to find out (**page 23**).



**In quest of loveliness:** Ready to live on the edge? Check out the class on Beauty & Death taught by **April Beiswenger** (Theatre Studies): "How humans have tried to kill ourselves and others chasing fashionability" (**page 23**).



**Incoming scholars:** We share a video that we sent to our newest Trustee Scholarship awardees after we invited them to campus to honor their achievements (**page 34**). We think it will make you feel proud, too – and not a little nostalgic!

Keep an eye open throughout this edition for more links to content on the web. Follow us on your favorite social media channel, too. Just search for **St. Norbert College**.

[snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine)





**Between seasons**

Spring makes its arrival before winter is ready to release its hold, creating fresh beauty on a campus that doubles as an arboretum for all to enjoy.



Say farewell to winter fun on campus. [snc.edu/magazine](https://snc.edu/magazine)

## Joyfully called to mission



St. Norbert College's tripartite mission – Catholic, Norbertine, liberal arts – makes a difference far beyond the college campus, writes **President Brian Bruess '90**.



### Recognized for its mission to serve

Mission at St. Norbert is fully and dynamically lived at our nationally recognized Sturzl Center for Community Service & Learning, recently honored once again with the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. The Sturzl Center, says Bruess, supports and advocates for the work of faculty, staff and students as they collectively serve and advance the common good.

As I pen this letter, I've just returned from the Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities annual meeting in Washington, D.C. – a gathering of leaders in Catholic higher education from around the world. I came back with even more enthusiasm and optimism than usual, with an ever more expansive lens on how and why our tripartite mission – unapologetically Catholic, Norbertine and liberal arts – has never been more essential. Has never, in fact, been more relevant in this world. Has never been more clear and vibrant, radiating into and out of every single thing we do here at SNC.

As I shared at the ACCU conference – in a presentation about mission-centered leadership – we at St. Norbert have intentionally created *mission radiance*. Our mission, ever ancient and ever new, shines splendidly and brightly. It guides our every decision, from curricula to hospitality, from service-learning to athletics, and from care for the whole student to care of our campus. From the smallest acts (knowing our students by name) to the weightiest decisions (creating college policy and crafting strategic direction), we purposefully lean on this profound sense of who we are – who Norbert of Xanten and our founders called us to be.

Colleges that take mission lightly, weaponize it or disingenuously apply it are struggling. They will falter, if they haven't already. Many will eventually close. Colleges like ours, because we take mission radiance very seriously, are thriving. We remain not only relevant but revered; we generously study and embrace our 900-year-old Norbertine charm and history while continually animating our core values in ever new ways.

Without question, the greatest joy in my daily work is observing how even the most routine aspects of life on campus are saturated with evidence of our mission shining broadly and brightly. We authentically and collectively embrace mission.

Of course, our mission radiates through our professors and their care for students. As art professor Father Jim Neilson exuberantly asserts: "Our mission is authentically revealed by those too-numerous-to-mention moments wherein we connect deeply and

powerfully with the heart, mind and soul of each person within our community." Indeed. And we see our mission woven into every discipline across the curriculum as faculty challenge students to integrate faith and reason – a key feature of the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Particularly exciting is the ongoing work to define an explicitly Norbertine pedagogy. Dr. Mara Brecht and Father Andrew Ciferni explain in "Charismatic Circularity: Lay Faculty, Practices of Transmission and Possibilities for Renewal" (forthcoming in the *Journal of Catholic Higher Education*) that a Norbertine pedagogy – one that reflects Norbert of Xanten's own conversion – encourages students to remain open to changes of heart and mind, both large and small. It reassures students that when they face unexpected challenges they should remain encouraged to see new possibilities in unforeseen circumstances. A Norbertine pedagogy actively encourages pausing, contemplating and intentionally carving out time for reflection. It also actively encourages a teaching-learning environment rooted in deep dialogue, one that consistently honors the questions of both students and teachers.

We also see mission in evidence on the courts, in the pool and at the playing fields as our scholar-athletes and coaches care for each other, build respect, strengthen bodies – each a reflection of the Norbertine values of wellness, recreation and action.

Our mission is vibrant, understood and actively lived in every building, every residence hall, every area of campus, and in the good works of our 24,000-plus alumni serving their communities and families around the world. And while we are proud of the work being done to radiate mission – work that began 900 years ago – we also know that only when we actively invest in mission each day – asking how it can be expressed and made manifest in ever new ways – will it flourish for another 900, and beyond. Be assured, we joyfully accept this charge.

### QUOTED

"Our two institutions share a commitment to unique and empowering forms of liberal arts education; for Bryn Mawr, cultivating a community of passionate, joyful learners; and for St. Norbert, similarly cultivating a love of lifelong learning inspired by excellent teaching. For Bryn Mawr, this means equipping our students with powerful tools that enable graduates to lift up others as they make a meaningful difference in the world, just as for St. Norbert this means equipping students to serve humanity and care for all." – **Gina Siesing and Constance A. Jones of Bryn Mawr College**

"Collaborating with Bryn Mawr is a beautiful reflection of the deep commitment our faculty and staff have to offer an increasingly more sophisticated and effective learning experience as well as our steadfast belief in the power of strategic partnerships." – **President Brian Bruess '90**



## Bryn Mawr partners on tech

A new partnership with Bryn Mawr aims to continue support of faculty in the classroom and provide more opportunity for fostering innovative, technology-centered teaching techniques. The women's liberal arts college joins with SNC to offer the respective schools' teaching conferences on alternating years, starting with Bryn Mawr's Blending Learning in the Liberal Arts Conference on May 20-21, 2020. St. Norbert's next T3 (Transformative Teaching & Technology) will follow in May 2021.

The collaboration sprouted from a growing relationship between **Krissy Lukens** (Academic Technology) and Bryn Mawr's CIO Gina Siesing and director of libraries Constance A. Jones. The conversation began after Lukens presented at the Pennsylvania school's Liberal Arts Conference with **Reid Riggle** (Education). Last fall, Lukens approached Siesing with this idea: offer the twin conferences in a way that faculty could more easily engage in dialogue and learn from models of well-designed, technology-centric classroom techniques shared by their peers.

"With these conferences, we're trying to model what we're advocating for in the

classroom, which is innovative teaching strategies that use technology in some creative way to elevate learning," Lukens explains. "But with our conferences being back to back, it became difficult for us to participate in theirs and vice versa."

Siesing stresses that this partnership between two similarly established and well-regarded conferences gives a sustainable path forward: "It means that our conference planning teams are enriched and strengthened by working together each year to shape these programs for our cohorts of national (and sometimes international!) conference participants."

On their off years, both institutions plan to promote the other's conference and utilize budgets previously reserved for hosting to facilitate faculty presentations.

Lukens also sees a future in which both institutions have faculty working together virtually in the classroom: "Sometimes you need that first face-to-face meeting to really connect and see what the possibilities could be over long distance."

Full Spectrum Learning at SNC, a T3 sponsor, plans to fund up to eight \$1,000 travel grants for those presenting at this year's Blended Learning Conference.

### About Bryn Mawr



Founded in 1885 and one of the Seven Sisters colleges, Bryn Mawr College is a women's liberal arts institution located just outside Philadelphia. Bryn Mawr has a strong emphasis on teaching, research and guiding students to transform knowledge gained into meaningful, actionable steps beyond campus. The school also provides coed graduate and doctorate programs and was the very first women's college to offer a doctoral program. Alumni include Emily Balch, Class of 1889, the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize; Ume Tsuda, Class of 1894, founder of the first women's college in Japan; and Enid Cook '31, an eminent microbiologist and Bryn Mawr's first African American grad.

Generally speaking



Brig. Gen. **Jill A. (Beaudoin) Lannan '85** is to be the 2020 Commencement speaker. Lannan is the 13th SNC graduate to attain the rank of general, and the first SNC woman to earn her star. Lannan was commissioned into the United States Army, where she served until 1992. Since 1993, she has been serving in the Washington Air National Guard and today is the Air National Guard assistant to the commander, 24th Air Force, based in Texas.

Bailey's Bill gets teeth



A bill providing scholarships to Wisconsin dentistry grad students who promise to work in underserved rural areas has been nicknamed "Bailey's Bill" to reflect the work of a St. Norbert senior. Last August, **Bailey Miller '20** – who plans to attend Marquette School of Dentistry – testified in favor of the bill before the Assembly Committee on Health. Bailey's Bill passed the Assembly and is headed to the Senate. Rep. Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc), one of the bill's authors, gave it the catchy moniker because Miller is a constituent of his.

Music

Slovakian jazz trumpet star **Juraj Bartoš** performs March 28 at the Wisconsin Trumpet Guild Conference, held at UW-Green Bay's Weidner Center for the Performing Arts. **Jamie Karp Waroff** (Music) collaborated with UWGB's Adam Gaines to host the conference, which will feature a day's worth of trumpet master classes, recitals by Wisconsin-based performers, an evening concert and exhibits.

Bartoš is hosted through the two schools' joint International Visiting Scholar initiative.

Executive development

Coming in May: a new book from Morgan James Publishing authored by **Ben Fauske**, "Authentic Confidence: The Secret to Loving Your Work and Leading an Unstoppable Career." Fauske is on the faculty of the Center for Exceptional Leadership at St. Norbert.

Chemistry

**Jonathon Russel** (Chemistry) authored the chapter "Three-Membered Ring Systems," published in Volume 31 (2020) of the book series "Progress in Heterocyclic Chemistry."

Business ethics

"When Vanity Is Dangerous," by **Grant Rozeboom** (Business Administration

– Ethics and Philosophy) was recently published in "Philosophy & Public Affairs."

Physics

The Journal of Molecular Liquids has published a paper co-authored by undergrads **Caden Stippich '21** and **Cullen Voss '21** with **Nick Mauro** (Physics) and research partners from North Central College. The paper is titled "X-ray Scattering Investigation of Ion Aggregation in Imidazolium-Based Ionic Liquids Upon Doping with Lithium, Sodium, Potassium, Rubidium and Cesium Salts."

Honors

SNC Honors 101 students partnered with Definitely De Pere, the City of De Pere and On Broadway to study three community issues: the development of public art; the feasibility and desirability of creating multi-dwelling family zoning (think a home plus guest house on one lot); and possible uses and programming for Green Bay's Shipyard Project, a vacant brownfield in the midst of transformation into a tourist and recreational area. Some current ideas for the latter include creating seasonal programming for the property and outfitting old shipping containers for use by microbusinesses. The students



Pooling their experience

Two decades, more than 2,000 games, countless shots. For the professors emeriti who meet weekly to play pool at St. Norbert Abbey, the numbers keep ticking. And recently, the group celebrated another: 97.

The **Rev. Brendan McKeough '47** (Economics, Emeritus) turned 97 years old in November, and his pool-playing mates, **Jim Regan '54** and **Bob Vanden Burgt** (Philosophy, Emeriti) and **Bob Boyer** (English, Emeritus) joined him to celebrate – after a few matches of pool, of course.

McKeough (above) and Regan began their pool four-some in 2002 with **Frank Wood** and **Robert Kramer** (Business, Emeriti) at Regan's home. After the deaths of Wood and Kramer, Boyer and Vanden Burgt joined the group, which moved its Wednesday-afternoon meeting place to the abbey in 2016. McKeough keeps score, but the teams change weekly, the rules are relaxed, and the conversation is sharp-witted.

McKeough: "For me, it's the highlight of my social week. At 97, you don't have a big social life, you know."

Vanden Burgt: "It's the only time during the week when I'm not the oldest guy in the room."

Boyer: "It's the one day in the week when the worst possible thing can be missing a layup ... and I miss a lot of them. ... But I walk out and I had forgotten all the other issues."

Regan: "It helps, of course, that all our memories are fading. So after an hour and a half, we don't remember who won."

researched the issues, conducted site visits and studied project plans before presenting their findings – plus new ideas of their own – to the groups.

Typically, Honors 101 involves research into local businesses.

This year's program branched out into community development. The group had pretty good feedback from everybody involved, said **Joel Mann** (Philosophy), director of the honors program.



Eye on the prize

St. Norbert met Loras College Feb. 7 to lift the home curtain on its men's volleyball program in front of a large partisan crowd. The Green Knights came up shy in this nonconference match but, at press time, **Morgan Wilson '23** and his teammates had already notched up three wins for the brand-new program.

A new program launches. [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine)

## Risk, reward in the balance sheet of life

Risk lover, risk-neutral or risk-averse – economists often characterize people in these ways. Ask most of my friends which category I fall into and, nine times out of 10, you'll get a laugh. Yet here I am, embarking on hazardous waters as I plan to take you on this one-page journey from economics to kayaking and back again. I've found that whenever I've chosen to embrace danger, notoriously risk-averse though I am, the payoffs have been life-changing.

My riskiest professional venture to date started with a call from a friend at another school on a Saturday morning – a call that would steer this economist, trained in the fields of international trade, macroeconomics and econometrics, toward the study of religious identity formation. I had recently been granted tenure, and my research focus was primarily related to issues of international trade and foreign direct investment. My friend was calling to pitch a new idea. He had a data set that asked questions related to immigration. He thought that, since we both worked at Catholic institutions, and since the Catholic church has opinions in this area, we should look into whether a person's immigration policy preferences were affected by their religious affiliation and a measure of their religiosity.

We both knew this to be a risky project. Interdisciplinary work is notoriously difficult to publish. But it sounded intriguing, and taking chances is a part of the freedom that tenure allows. We found a great group of scholars who shared similar interests, combining the tools of economics with the tools of other disciplines to offer a better understanding of religious behavior. These scholars became our intellectual pack. Defying the odds, we were able to publish papers on the ways religion affects attitudes towards globalization, along with how it affects trust in others – more on trust later. We published on the strategies that megachurches have employed to be successful, and most recently, on how religious identity is established. We were able to host Nobel Laureate Gary Becker for a talk at SNC. Clearly, we were lucky to be following in the footsteps of an intellectual giant who had already established that it was legitimate to use economics to study a topic (in his case, the family) usually left to other disciplines.

And we met one of my own heroes, Robert Putnam, a Harvard political scientist who cited our work in his upcoming co-authored book, "American Grace: How

Religion Divides and Unites Us." I get to do this work with a great friend, initially a professor and mentor of mine. More, it has forever changed my thinking. It's taught me that taking some risks will lead to some of the most rewarding experiences life has to offer, and this is what I want to pay forward to my students.

Leaving the hard-to-navigate waters of interdisciplinary research for the moment, let's go paddle somewhere we can actually get wet. Labor Day weekend of 2010, my wife, Jenny, and I were introducing two recent graduates (Chris Zaczyk and Andrea Osgood, now Andrea Zaczyk) to our hobby of big-water kayaking. The weather had turned. Temperatures were in the 50s, and the wind was gusting over 30 mph. Clearly, the conditions were not conducive to a relaxed paddling experience. In fact, we could see 8-foot waves on the bay. Those waves could capsize a kayak rather easily. Should we take the risk? We did, and I'll never forget the feeling of surfing those waves with our friends.

A wise Irish saying goes something along the lines, "A man who is not afraid of the sea will soon be drowned for he will be going out on a day he shouldn't. But we do be afraid of the sea and we do only be drowned now and again." When my family vacationed on Lake Superior – notoriously fickle in changing conditions – we tempered the risks by hiring an outfitter when we set out to tour the sea caves at the Apostle Islands. It was one of the best days of my life. We launched in fog, but the sun burned it off within 20 minutes. After about 30 minutes of paddling, we were in warm sunlight enjoying the incredible views that Nature was offering us. Some risks are worth taking.

Back at my desk in Cofrin, I do a lot of my work deliberately and with discipline. There is much that takes a lot of thought and time to figure out. For me, the relaxed environment of kayaking is incredibly conducive to letting ideas percolate.

To be good at what we do, it is important to nurture passions related to work and passions unrelated to work. That balance makes us better able to relate to others. And when risk attends personal growth as we learn new things and engage in new activities, the rewards are great.

**Marc von der Ruhr joined the St. Norbert faculty in 1999. He teaches economics in both the undergraduate and MBA programs.**

*In memoriam mentor and friend Joe Daniels (1959-2020), Keyes Dean of Business Administration, Marquette University*



### Dancing to the same tune

Each November the Duck Creek Crossing Singers with dancers from the Oneida, Ojibwe and Ho-Chunk nations offer a dance and drum demonstration. The event, hosted by Multicultural Student Services in collaboration with the student-led Council of Indigenous People, is a chance for community and campus to learn about their Native American predecessors and neighbors.



# Fielding pressures as they come

Josh Koleske '20 says the pressures he felt as the Green Knights' last line of defense made his rigorous coursework not as stressful. The four-year soccer team standout parlayed his success athletically and academically into a first-team CoSIDA Academic All-America selection as a senior.

"Rather than academics helping me play soccer, it has been the other way around," the biology major says. "Being in high-pressure situations on the soccer fields helped prepare me for high-pressure situations in the classroom. When I have to take a big exam or give an important presentation, I am more relaxed because of the pressure I face in soccer."

Koleske finishes a stellar career at St. Norbert with a 41-10-6 mark and holds the school record with 17 shutouts. He also kept a "clean sheet" in the classroom, posting a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. He earned three Midwest Conference Elite 20 Awards and was a first-team All-MWC selection as a senior.

"Being an Academic All-American is an incredible honor," says Koleske, who will be attending medical school following graduation from St. Norbert. "Coming in as a freshman, it was my goal to be named to at least one of the Academic All-America teams by the time I graduated. I am thankful to not only having been named to the first team as a senior but also to be part of the second team as a junior."

The first-team Academic All-America honor capped off a season that also saw the Green Knights capture the Midwest Conference Tournament championship and advance to the second round of the 64-team NCAA Division III Tournament.

## "Being an Academic All-American is an incredible honor."

Koleske played a key role in St. Norbert moving on in the national tournament, as the Green Knights advanced past Ohio Northern University on a penalty-kick shootout after their Nov. 15 match ended in a scoreless tie. "The entire experience was surreal," Koleske says. "Through the game I was aware that we might end up going into a shootout, but I did not have time to process the situation until after it was over. That game was the highest-stakes penalty shootout that I had ever been a part of, so being able to advance with my team to the next



round was exhilarating."

The NCAA Tournament experience came on the heels of another big victory, with St. Norbert tipping archrival Knox College 2-1 in double overtime in the championship of the Midwest Conference Tournament. The victory came on the Prairie Fire's home field, turning the tables after Knox did the same to the Green Knights a year earlier at Schneider Stadium.

"Knox has been a tough conference rival for the four years I have been at St. Norbert, so beating them is always special to our team," Koleske says. "It was a hard-fought game throughout as it always is, and in the end I am glad we were able to be the more resilient team."

That resiliency is an especially important trait during the soccer season. Playing a 20-game regular-season schedule in two months while battling the onerous Midwest Conference travel, plus staying on top of academic work, can tax even the most organized person.

"It was difficult to achieve in both of these areas because each requires an enormous commitment in terms of time and dedication," Koleske says. "It was most challenging during the fall semester when I had up to four classes, including extra lab sessions, and had to go to soccer practices, workouts and games."

"However, spending time doing these things rarely felt like a burden because I was studying biology and psychology, both subjects that I enjoy, and playing soccer, a sport that I have been a part of almost my entire life."

## All-American trail-blazer continues march on history



Wide receiver **Samuel Staehling '20** made history on the gridiron during his four years with the Green Knights, and has now made history off of it. Among many firsts, Staehling is the first Division III football player to earn three first-team Academic All-America accolades since CoSIDA began naming separate teams for all NCAA divisions in 2011.

## SKY HIGH



**Jaxsen Schermacher '22** shattered the previous school record in the indoor pole vault by nearly 10 inches as the Green Knights competed at the Emory University Crossplex Showdown in January.

## Shelly Mumma

### Leadership, Student Engagement & First-Year Experience

People don't have beautiful handwriting like this now. And the prose! Now when people do minutes, it's outlines, it's bullet points. If people even write minutes, they're not doing them like this anymore.

This must have been written near the end of their first year. Everyone had to pay 10 cents for their annual dues to be a member. The org was going to have some music performance but the musician "failed to appear." And someone else was going to do something but they also "failed to appear." Well, that doesn't sound all that different from now! But it was all written up so eloquently. At one point, they just found out that their spiritual director's father had passed away. So, in true student government-type style, they wrote a resolution of support full of phrases like "being resolved," and "whereas this . . ." It was very nice!

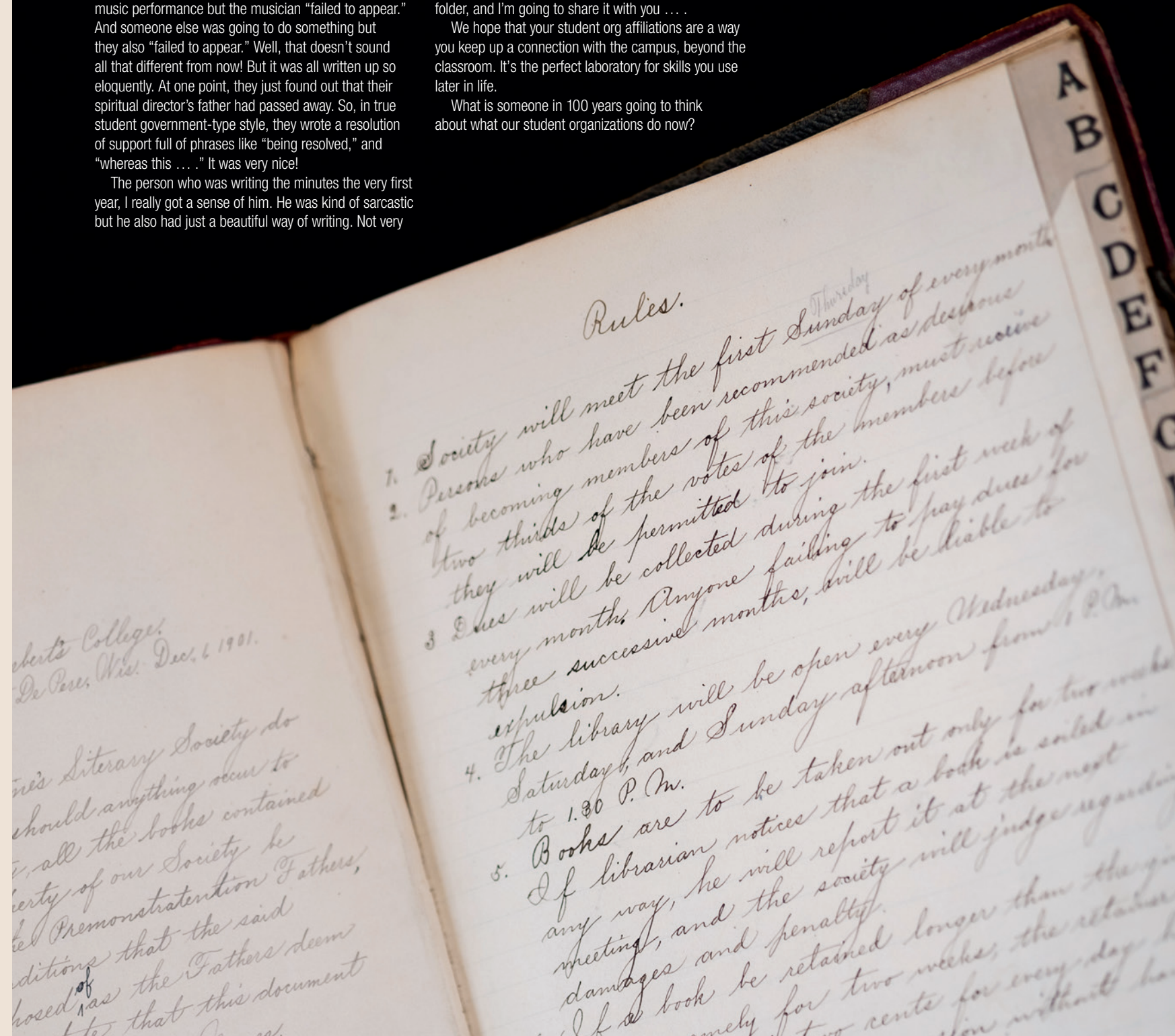
The person who was writing the minutes the very first year, I really got a sense of him. He was kind of sarcastic but he also had just a beautiful way of writing. Not very

concise at all; but it was the storytelling of the group, not just the facts. Then, the voice changed a bit. You can see some of the personality changes as the leadership transitioned. We talk a lot with our students about this: "Keep records. You need to transition next year's officers in." This was a nice way to do that. You handed off the physical book. Now, it's this Google Drive folder, and I'm going to share it with you . . .

We hope that your student org affiliations are a way you keep up a connection with the campus, beyond the classroom. It's the perfect laboratory for skills you use later in life.

What is someone in 100 years going to think about what our student organizations do now?

**Shelly Mumma joined Student Affairs in 2006 to assist students with their learning both inside and outside the classroom. She says that, as young adults, it's important for students to understand the immense change that will be happening in their lives over the four years that they attend college.**



## Norbertine Now / Who Gives This Woman to Marry This Man?

## Dash to the altar

**Andrew LeMay '18** had already invited **Ben Behling '19** to be his best man. "Behling is a really good friend of all three of us," says the **Rev. Andrew Ciferni '64**. "And in addition, I needed a ride! On our way down, Ben's phone rang. The track team wanted to come to the wedding. They already had two events that day – an alumni event and a meet in Oshkosh. I expected they'd arrive in jeans, whatever. No: shirt, tie, jacket, polished shoes. Coach **Don Augustine** came, **Colin McKean** [Class of 2005], the assistant coach. **Liz LeCaptain** [Class of 2016] was one of the readers. It was a real experience of the St. Norbert College family.

"One of the beauties of this wedding was the simplicity of it. You had this kind of sense that maybe this is the way weddings took place 100 years ago."

## Ciferni named board chair

The **Rev. Andrew Ciferni '64**, a Norbertine of Daylesford Abbey, has been named the new chair of the St. Norbert College Board of Trustees. A former director of the Center for Norbertine Studies, he has served two terms as a college trustee since 2002. The **Rev. Dan Felton** has served as a trustee since 2011.



## True to you in good times and in bad

A wedding day in prospect. Sad news. A rapid change of plans. A marriage begins. A grievous loss. Finals to take. Life has had a lot to throw at pharmacy grad student **Sarah (Parbs) LeMay '18** since she and **Andrew LeMay '18** became engaged. And not all of the events came along in the usual order. This January day, for instance, the couple are meeting with the **Rev. Andrew Ciferni '64** for premarital counseling. It's six weeks after their Dec. 7 wedding.

Sarah and Andrew were on course for a big wedding that should not even have taken place until this summer. They had asked Ciferni to marry them at Old St. Joe's. Although Sarah's father (another Andrew) was struggling with illness, the outcome was hopeful. That would all change with a new prognosis just before Thanksgiving; his doctors did not expect him to live till Christmas.

"When they told us, I just knew," says Sarah. "He had to be there."

While the young couple started making phone calls to family and friends, Ciferni, board chair at SNC, reached out to fellow trustee the **Rev. Dan Felton**. Felton, vicar general of the Diocese of Green Bay, put the Norbertine in touch with the chancery of the archdiocese of Milwaukee, setting the wheels in motion for a wedding in exceptional circumstances. Ciferni says, "I had never done this. But Dan Felton was right on top of it."

A couple of days later, Andrew picked Sarah up

after school. They applied for their license and got their wedding bands, then Sarah started asking friends about vendors. Her roommate, **Paulina (Puskala) Fote '17**, had just gotten married quite close to the Parbs family parish, where the church of St. Columbkille offered wheelchair access. She could recommend florist, musicians, photographer – "Oh, we had the whole thing!" says Andrew.

Sarah's veil had come in, but her dress had not. She ordered a substitute online and wore it with a pearl necklace that her father had given her mother. "Literally the day before the wedding, Andrew FaceTimed me from a DSW shoe outlet. He picked out my shoes!"

The night before the wedding, Sarah and her mother practiced with a wheelchair in the kitchen so both parents could walk her down the aisle together.

Mr. Parbs would die on his 55th birthday, Dec. 11, just four days after he saw his daughter wed.

Yes, the couple will complete their premarital counseling – a Church-stipulated condition of their "sprint wedding," and an assurance of the best possible start, and support, for life's race together.

And the August celebration? That's still happening. Andrew says, "We had initially planned for about 250, 260 people and we had about 50 at our wedding, so there's a lot of people we still want to be able to share that kind of day with." And Sarah will wear the dress, now delivered: the one to which she first said yes.

## Working to change lives



A passion for improving lives takes students to work at Caravel Autism Health, where their work to help kids and families falls right in line with the Green Bay center's mission.

**Jessica Pomplun '20** is one of several SNC students on staff. While she's studying math with plans for graduate school and government agency work, it's clear her time with Caravel has been extraordinarily beneficial.

"Since my first year at SNC, I've been babysitting a little boy with autism who was in therapy at Caravel," she says. "His mom mentioned that the center was hiring. I was nervous because I had never really worked with children, let alone children with autism, but it's honestly one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Pomplun collaborates with other behavior specialists to create individualized plans for each client. The specialists are able to update families daily on achievements, some of them life-changing: a client saying their first words, perhaps, or riding a bike for the first time.

**Jessica DeMeuse '15** (above, left), a senior therapist at the center since 2016, says it's the day-to-day work and positive environment that makes the difference for each and every child who comes to Caravel. She hopes to have a small impact on a client's life each time she works with them. In reality, though, she says, they

are the ones impacting her life and teaching her so much.

Children who receive treatment earlier tend to make the greatest breakthroughs later on. A focus on the one-on-one partnership is a significant part of the process, too.

"When I first started, I didn't know what to expect, but I discovered my true passion," says **Danica Wendler '20** (center). "Working with these kiddos is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. Even though some days are tough, seeing the smile of a client you helped makes it all worth it."

**Valerie Rivas '21** (right) says seeing her clients succeed and sharing those personal triumphs with their loved ones is what she appreciates most: "I think my favorite moments are working with several different kids and seeing them try their hardest and succeed in their work while they are there."

Pomplun says that while the children, and their families, experience an incredible amount of change at Caravel, her time at the center has pushed her to grow both personally and professionally. "I've learned how to approach negative behavior in a constructive way, [how to] be flexible – and probably a million new nursery rhymes with motions," she says. "But most importantly I learned about patience."

## IN MEMORIAM



■ **James Cagle** (Art, Emeritus), 1938-2020, joined the St. Norbert faculty in 1963 and taught for more than 40 years. "As an artist and a scholar, he held everyone to the highest standards – including himself. He was very particular, very intense – and very caring," recalls **Donald Taylor '67** (Galleries, Emeritus). Taylor knew Cagle first as student, then as faculty colleague and fellow artist. "He also had a silly side to him that was a pure delight to come upon." Cagle's work can be found in permanent collections of the Miller Art Center in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., and at the Madison (Wis.) Museum of Contemporary Art. He is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter and two stepchildren. *A story about a new solo exhibit of Cagle's work appeared in the February 2020 issue of @St. Norbert: [snc.edu/news/enews](http://snc.edu/news/enews).*

■ **John Sutton '65**, 1943-2020, served the college for more than 25 years in leadership roles that included associate dean for instructional services, director of computer services, associate vice president for academic services and budgeting, and secretary to the

board of trustees. Sutton is survived by his wife, Jere; and three children, including **Mary Mazur '02** (married to **Kevin Mazur '00**); and brother **Jim '68**.

■ **The Rev. Sebastian Schalk**, 1923-2019, taught physics until 1982, serving the college for nearly two decades. "What was so exemplary about Father Seb is that no one can remember him ever saying a negative thing about another person," says the **Rt. Rev. Dane Radecki '72**. Schalk is survived by a brother, a sister and the Norbertine community.

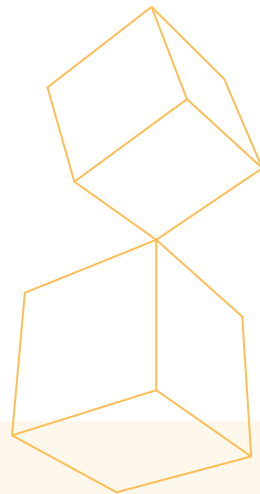
■ **The Rev. Brian Prunty '61**, 1936-2020, served the college as trustee, parish pastor and instructor. He is survived by two sisters and his Norbertine confrères.

■ **The Rev. Samuel Donald Jadin '52**, 1931-2020, served on the theology faculty. He is survived by two brothers, three sisters and the Norbertine community.

■ **Bob Bush**, 1926-2019, was president and CEO of Schreiber Foods. With his wife, **Carol**, Bob was a good friend to SNC. The couple both served on the board of trustees; they would receive the President's Medal in 1996 and honorary degrees in 2014. Their generosity to the college has a lasting memorial on campus in the Bush Art Center. Bob is survived by Carol and their children – among them college trustee **Tracy Arndt**.



# BALANCING ACT



By **Melanie (Radzicki) McManus '83**

Everyone wants to be healthy. But what, exactly, does good health look like? It's about being in good physical condition, sure. And having a positive frame of mind. But there's so much more to good health than that.

Living a healthy, balanced life means being intellectually stimulated and spiritually nourished. It encompasses stable finances, working at a job you love, and having friends and family who support and engage you. It's living and exploring in a safe, nurturing environment, following your passions and daring to dream – and dream big.

But creating the best life for yourself doesn't necessarily mean these various dimensions of healthy living must be given equal weight. We're all different; one person may need more intellectual stimulation to thrive, while another might crave more spiritual sustenance.

We tapped members of the St. Norbert family for their insights into health, wellness and what good self-stewardship looks like.

## Find a natural equilibrium

Contemplation – deep, reflective thought – is an integral part of the Norbertine tradition. It's also key to emotional health. So a group of staff and faculty are working to incorporate more contemplative practices into the St. Norbert experience.

The group – among them **Becky Lahti '00** (Emmaus Center), **Bruce Robertson** (CAPS), **Lisa Burke** (CAPS), **Laurie MacDiarmid** (English), and **Chrystal Woller** (Health Services) – transformed a room in the Campus Center into a contemplative space (pictured), complete with floor cushions and a water feature. They are using the space to offer the campus community a variety of contemplative practices, from yoga to meditation.

"We want to incorporate contemplation

across the board. We'd like it in the classroom, we'd like it in the residence halls," Robertson says. "And then, really, our hope is that with Wellness by Design, it will kind of move across campus."

They're finding students not only receptive to meditative practices, but asking for them. Burke introduced meditation to her Gateway students; on the last day of class, when they were given the opportunity to choose any activity, they asked for time to meditate.

"Practices like meditation have been proven to reduce stress and anxiety and help with focus," Lahti says. "There are so many benefits, and I think people are seeing that more and more and wanting to be a part of it."

Burke recently returned from Cambodia, where she received training as

a meditation teacher. She plans to bring what she learned to her students and others interested in incorporating the practices into their own lives. Here, she offers three tips for beginners:

- **Slow down.** "Slowing down your breathing helps take your stress way down."

- **Tune in to your body.** "Focus on the rise and fall of your stomach, feeling your breath. ... Relax all your muscles ... and enjoy the relaxation."

- **Take meditation with you.** "Meditation doesn't have to be where you just sit in silence. It can be practiced when you're walking. It can be practiced when you're standing in line. ... You always have your breath with you."



### Contemplatives in action

Our Norbertine identity effectively offers a challenge to a healthy, balanced life. Although busy priests and others leading lives of self-emptying service may be among the first to admit that their own lives are far from well-modulated, a rule of life – monastic or secular – that meets the human need for counter-balanced wholeness is upheld by many religious orders.

## Juggle friendships

**Sierra Peters '19** is a grad student in social psychology at Florida State University. Her research involves the forming and dissolution of romantic relationships. The not-so-rosy news: Marital satisfaction declines over the course of one's marriage, possibly because of over-optimism and naiveté as newlyweds. The good news: You can still have a very happy and fulfilling union by communicating thoughtfully, enjoying novel experiences together and supporting each other's goals.

But whether you're married or single, Peters says developing close relationships is critical to your health and well-being. "And it's not about quantity, but more about quality," she says. So try to foster a few close friendships rather than making a lot of superficial acquaintances. Because as time goes on, you will need people in your life who can support you in overcoming life's various difficulties – people who really know how to make you feel better.

Peters adds that one of our core needs is belonging. So surrounding yourself with people who accept you just the way you are automatically increases your self-esteem.



**Sierra Peters '19** works in the Meltzer Lab in the department of psychology at Florida State University.



## Maintain a balanced diet for cyber health

There are many wonderful assets to the digital era. One of the most obvious is that it allows us to seamlessly communicate with people around the globe. But the era has also ushered in some concerning trends. Kids, who use technology as their primary means of communicating and forming friendships, report feeling addicted to their devices. Research shows students today are less focused at school and have more social challenges. And some studies indicate the more you're on devices, the more you're at risk of depression, sleep deprivation and suicide.

Enter **Annie (Gibbons) Gaughan '91**, director of business development for Cyber Safety Consulting Inc. The company created curriculum for primary-students and middle-school students to assist kids in learning internet safety and digital citizenship, as well as a comprehensive program for high school students which covers age-relevant topics for each of the four high school years. Staff travel around the nation to help educate students, parents and teachers on these topics.

Gaughan (married to **Brian Gaughan '91**, incidentally) passes on these top cyber safety tips for families:

- **Establish healthy digital habits.** It's easier to establish good habits than break bad ones. So talk to your kids early on about your rules and expectations regarding their digital devices. And stress how to be a good digital citizen, including

the emotional and physical power of the words they use.

- **Talk about the digital world often.** Cyber safety needs to be an ongoing conversation, not a one-and-done discussion. Rather than just dispensing periodic lectures, show an interest in what your child is doing. Ask how Snapchat works and to see what they're snapping. See who and what they're following online and who is following them.

- **Model good habits.** If you don't want your kids texting while driving, then don't text while you drive. If you don't want your kids on the phone during dinner, don't answer your phone during mealtime.

- **Incorporate tech-free time into every day.** Gather the family and play a game. Or head out on a walk or bike ride. Physical activity and being outside is good for everyone. Plus, unplugging lets kids know they don't have to instantly respond to every message or ping they get, which can be a huge stress reliever.

- **Let them know you can recover from any online mistake.** Your children need to know they can come to you and your first instinct will be to protect them and keep them safe. If your child accidentally gives out personal information online to a stranger, you want them to know they can tell you about it – especially if, say, they suddenly begin receiving threatening messages.

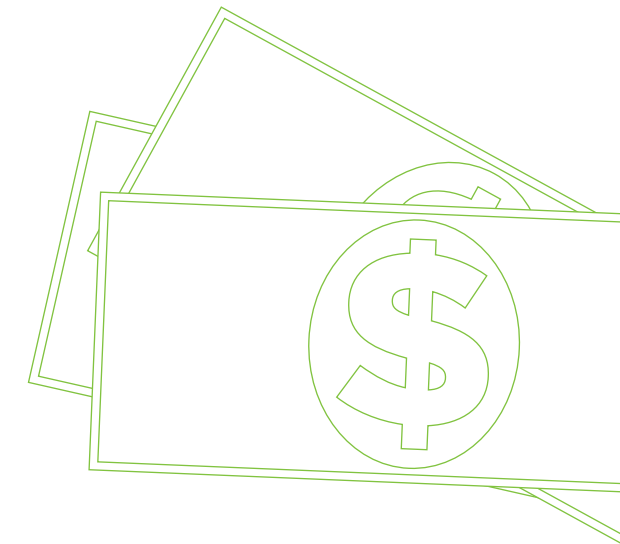
## Watch for checks and balances

Not surprisingly, financial health as part of the whole is top of mind for **Jessica Rafeld**, who directs the campus office of financial aid. Rafeld says:

*The college, with a missional commitment to keeping costs low, offers generous financial aid awards. Some 25 to 30 percent of our students don't borrow. Those who do borrow are well-positioned to pay off those loans. In fact, St. Norbert has one of the lowest default rates out there. SNC's current default rate is 2.2 percent, compared with the national average of 10.1 percent.*

*In the event that any students fall behind in their loan payments, we reach out to them to make sure they understand the*

*options and don't end up in a position where they're defaulting on their loans. When they get a letter from their school – and it arrives in a handwritten envelope, offering different options to help them – they know there's someone they can turn to. College staff offer a presentation with the Gateway [first-year seminar] program on being a smart consumer of student loans. The presentation goes into budgeting and keeping your expenses down. It also talks about what a reasonable debt is. A reasonable debt for someone planning to go into one professional field might be very different from someone going into another field.*



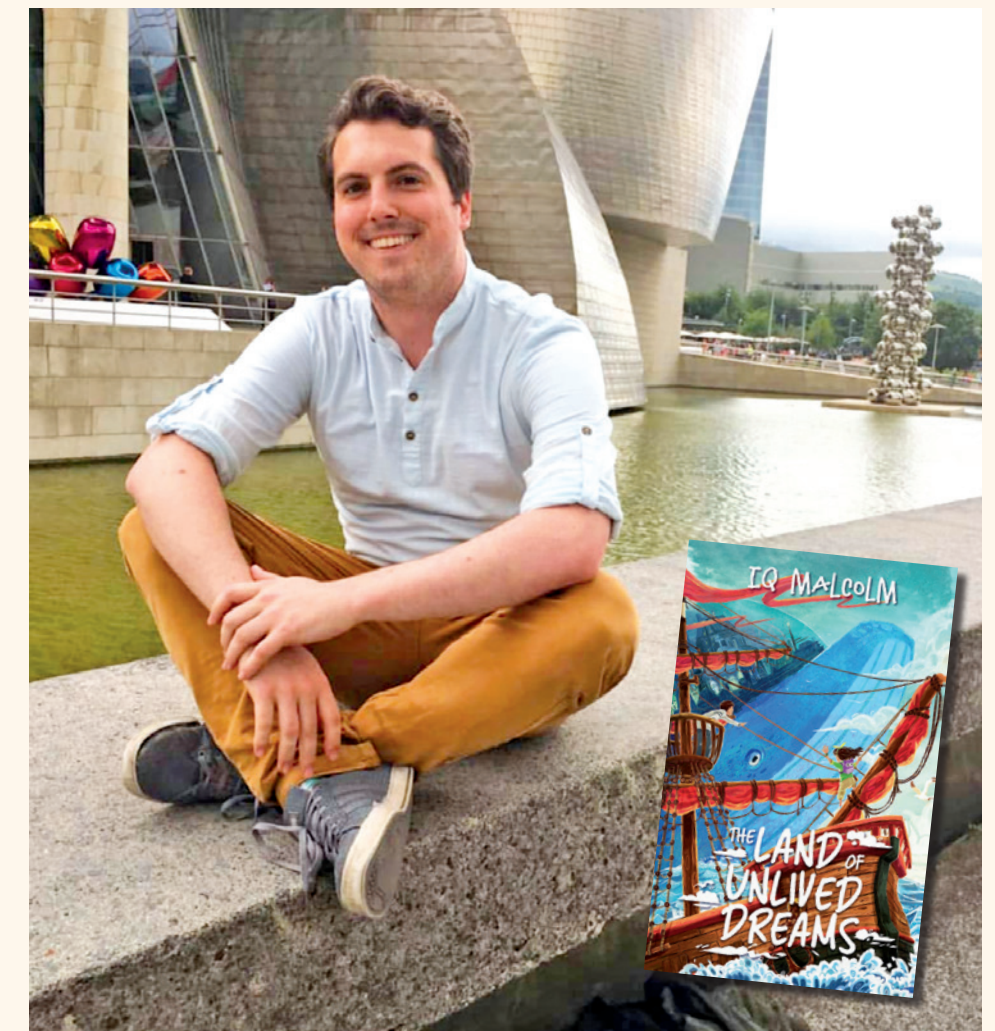
## Balance the book(s)

One night, **Ian Malcolm '14** had a dream. It was about a magical place where all of the aspirations we once had roamed around, waiting to be rescued. Inspired, the K-5 teacher at West Ridge IB Elementary School in Racine, Wis., penned "The Land of Unlived Dreams," a middle-grade fantasy about two siblings who venture into just such a magical world to restore their father's hopes and dreams, which had vanished after their mother died.

"I feel as though everyone is told at some point in their life that their dream is impossible," says Malcolm. "And, for many people, this is enough to stop them from pursuing it." Case in point: When Malcolm told a colleague he hoped to write a book one day, his boss later approached him and dismissively told Malcolm he'd never be an author. Thanks to those words, it took four years before Malcolm had the courage to try writing a book anyway.

"I hope my book reminds adult readers that they still have time to pursue their own dreams," he says. And he reminds us to be mindful of the words we speak, so we don't inadvertently quash the dreams of others.

The Kindle edition of "The Land of Unlived Dreams" is available for preorder on Amazon now. The print version debuts at the end of May.



With the publication of his new children's novel on the importance of realizing dreams, **Ian Malcolm '14** realized a dream of his own: to author a book.

## Keep a sense of scale(!)

Neither **Trish (Briick) Byron '82** nor **Wendy (Coursolle) Reiss '91** was particularly athletic as a child or while at St. Norbert. But by the time they reached middle age, things had changed.

Byron started running as a younger woman, then got into triathlons in her 40s. She immediately showed talent in the sport, hired a coach and worked her way up from short “super-sprint” distances to full Ironman triathlons. That’s swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles and then running a marathon, or 26.2 miles. Eventually, she won the women’s 55-59 age group at the Brazil Ironman in 2016, which was the setting for the South American Ironman Championship and which qualified her to race at the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. In both 2016 and 2018, Byron ranked in the top 10 percent of female Ironman triathletes worldwide in her age group.

Reiss, a vice president of sales and national accounts for a New Jersey wholesaler, was an active runner after college, competing in road races, trail runs and mud runs. She also participated in triathlons. But when she was nearing 50, a friend persuaded her to climb Tanzania’s Mount Kilimanjaro with her. The dormant volcano stretches roughly 19,300 feet skyward and is the world’s highest freestanding mountain. And so she did, signing on with a guide who also helped them explore the local culture.



### What Reiss wants you to know

- Health is everything. It really comes first because without it, you have nothing. So you need to be good to your body.
- Wellness is mental as well as physical.
- We’re always on the move here in the U.S., but that means we miss a lot. And life is short. So remember that things should be done deliberately and slowly, and you should experience things while they’re happening. Live and enjoy the moments.

### What Byron wants you to know

- The more you train, the more you can push your body and do things you never thought you’d be able to do.
- There were years when I didn’t do well. But I still continued racing because I always get a good feeling of accomplishment every time I cross the finish line.
- Anything is possible. That’s the thing. You don’t think you can do it, but if you take baby steps toward something, you’re going to accomplish it.
- Age is just a number. I feel so much younger than what my number is, and I’ll be able to do more and enjoy life more because I keep on moving.



Top, **Wendy (Coursolle) Reiss '91** stands on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Above, **Trish (Briick) Byron '82** crosses the finish line at the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii.

Two SNC alums have gone public on their own health stories in order to encourage and educate others. We spoke with **Jenny Scherer '10** and **Molly Schroeder '13**. [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine)

## Seek work-life balance

Much of our lives are spent at work, so pursuing the proper vocation appears essential to a fulfilling and balanced life. But **Mike Schmitz '05** says whether or not you’ve landed that ideal job, you can still find much happiness in the office.

Schmitz is head of The Conover Company, which produces an online career assessment and skill-building system to help employees with career discernment and soft-skill improvement. He says employees can flourish wherever they are if they have strong soft skills, namely good communication skills and strong emotional intelligence.

Emotional intelligence, a hot topic today, is the ability to be aware of, and control, your emotions, plus be empathetic and fair in your interpersonal relationships. Work on your emotional intelligence and communication skills, and you’ll be better able to roll with the punches and overcome obstacles.

“Instead of complaining about things at work that cause you pain, look at them as opportunities for growth,” Schmitz says. “Flip that script.”

Then, you’ll thrive no matter what job you’re holding. And doors will open to future possibilities.



## Reflect on what tips the balance

Students grappling with their studies in vocation tapped deep into painful experiences – their own and others’ – as they wrote a series of outstanding papers for **Paul Wadell** (Theology & RS) in last year’s senior capstone class.

In “Discerning Vocation and Calling Following Experiences of Trauma,” **Annika Osell '19** wrote:

*How do we have a realistic conversation regarding vocation with people who have been traumatized or have challenging life circumstances? Too often American society disregards these individuals and their needs are forgotten because it is messier and much more complicated to stand alongside them in solidarity. ... If vocation is to be meaningful, it is necessary that conversations regarding vocation be extended to people who have been broken, traumatized and wounded.*

*A traditional understanding of vocation leads one to expect that everything within one’s life will fall into place nicely once one “knows” one’s call, but that may not be true for people who have endured trauma.*

Osell concludes that the past can be drawn upon to inform one’s future: “*For Christians, our best interest is a relationship with God that will bring us to heaven and will draw us into just and loving relationships while living our lives in the present moment.*”

Osell’s classmate, **McKenna Kaminski '19**, addressed her own suicide attempt in “A Calling to Mental Health”:

*It has taken me years to really understand my faith and how to allow it to work through my life in a way that I can truthfully live a life without the thoughts of anxiety and depression. My senior year of high school, I was in an extremely dark place in my life, and after three years of tests I was told I have postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome. My heart rate from sitting to standing will jump from a 65 to 115. ... I grew up always having anxiety, but the depression was taking over me, and I attempted suicide during my last month of high school. I am beyond*

*thankful to have had another chance at life, but it was a huge process of stepping away from depression and dealing with the repercussions of the choice that I made. ... I felt it was important for me to see my relationship with God in its strongest and best light.*

And she concluded: *Faith is a reason to live, faith is hope, and God is enduring love. Our callings go far beyond a job, they bring us to relationships and abundant life. Mental health is a calling we should be showing self-care for, showing compassion, and reaching for hope not only amongst ourselves but others.*

The complete text of both papers is available online. [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine) ♣



### Eight ways to wellness

Wellness by Design, a college-wide initiative intended to foster a supportive, vibrant and active St. Norbert College community, focuses on the whole person. Well-being depends on a reasonable balance between eight dimensions of wellness in everyday life: physical, environmental, social, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, occupational and financial.

# A SHORT COURSE IN Beauty & Death

Miss hitting the books? In this new occasional feature, your St. Norbert education continues as we profile a course or lecture taught by our own faculty. (And this time, there's no final!)

## The Course Description

**THEA 237 History of Clothing & Fashion.** This survey of the history of clothing and its relationship to culture and society familiarizes the student with period styles from pre-history to modern times. We look at historical, cultural, and societal reasons behind dress, and endeavor to always treat the people we study with respect. **Lecture 8: Beauty & Death.**

## The Classroom

**Virtual.** History of Clothing & Fashion is offered online as a J-term course. "There's pressure to perform in the classroom that you don't feel online. It's challenging, because you don't get to see the students face-to-face."



## The Prof

**April Beiswenger**, associate professor of theatre arts, teaches theatrical design and technology. She earned an M.F.A. in theatrical design from West Virginia University and an M.A. in theatre arts from Villanova University. Beyond her theatre work, Beiswenger is a frequent exhibitor in the Godschalx Gallery on campus, where she explores the theatricality of art, as well as the joy of craft and communal making.

## Sole Survivor



**Lotus Shoes**  
c. 950-1950

For feet deformed by Chinese footbinding.



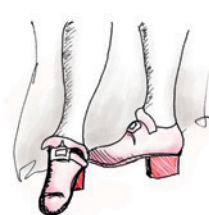
**Chopines**  
c. 1400-1700

"Stilts" to keep you out of the mud.



**Extreme High Heels, Women**  
16th century

Catherine de Medici first appropriated the look for women.



**Extreme High Heels, Men**  
18th century ...

... until the French Revolution. This posh fashion was a step too close to the guillotine!



**Platform Shoes**  
1970s-90s

Heavy, clunky trip-hazards.



**Ballet Boots**  
2010

By Alexander McQueen, British fashion designer.

## Chemicals of Doom



### White lead

**USED FOR:** an even, opaque whiteness  
**EFFECTS:** fatigue, anemia, weight loss, lead palsy, headaches, blindness, hallucinations  
**FACT:** used throughout history and into the present day



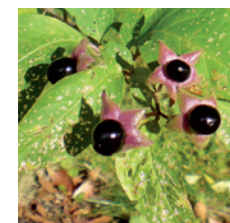
### Arsenic

**USED FOR:** an intense green dye for clothes, wreaths, gloves, wallpaper  
**EFFECTS:** sores, colic, vomiting, diarrhea, anemia, death  
**FACT:** more dangerous to the maker than the wearer



### Mercury

**USED FOR:** processing fur felted hats  
**EFFECTS:** Pink's disease, convulsions, trembles, psychological problems  
**FACT:** explains the Mad Hatter in "Alice in Wonderland"



### Belladonna

**USED FOR:** dilating pupils; as a muscle relaxant  
**EFFECTS:** quickening of the pulse, confusion, seizures, hallucinations, death  
**FACT:** used in Roman times and in modern medicine

## The Reading List



**EXCITING HISTORY:**  
**"Corsets and Codpieces: A History of Outrageous Fashion, from Roman Times to the Modern Era"**  
Bowman, Karen (2015)



**EQUAL PARTS FAB AND FRIGHTENING:**  
**"Killer Style: How Fashion Has Injured, Maimed, and Murdered Throughout History"**  
Matthews David, Alison and McMahon, Serah-Marie (2019)

**QUICK READ ON CORSETS:**  
**"A Second Look at the Big Squeeze"**  
Ruark, Jennifer in Chronicle of Higher Education (2001)

**Va•ter•mor•der** *noun* 1 a detachable stiff collar fashionable in the 1800s  
GERMAN, literally, patricide

**VATERMORDER WEARERS BEWARE:** This accessory could cut off blood to the carotid artery or cause suffocation.

## Making Up Is Hard to Do

IN YOUR MAKEUP BAG,  
IN TRACE AMOUNTS:

- **Phthalates**, disruptive to the endocrine system
- **Lead**, dangerous to the female reproductive system
- **Formaldehyde**, known as a carcinogen
- **Polyethylene glycol**, known as a carcinogen
- **Butylated compounds**, disruptive to the endocrine system and toxic to the organ system
- **Parabens**, known as carcinogens



## The Assignment

**Choose** one of the following and research how it is processed:

- Leather
- Cotton
- Botox
- Mascara
- Tattoo Ink

or,  
**Look** through your closet and list everything you own.

## For Extra Credit

How deadly is your closet? Take our clothing quiz at [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine).

Ready to live on the edge? Check out the class on Beauty & Death taught by **April Beiswenger**: "How humans have tried to kill ourselves and others chasing fashionability," at [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine).

# ACCORDING TO THE RESEARCH

Two SNC undergrads are acquiring an understanding of the research landscape that would be the envy of many already well into their grad school careers.

## By Dan Flannery

They're still early in their undergraduate careers, but **Luke Johnson '21** and **Ruthie Tucker '22** are setting about creating tomorrow's knowledge through original research – learning research methodology as they go, probing data, asking questions, collecting and collating and analyzing results, and, sometimes, reaching new conclusions about old quandaries.

Their learning environments are quite different, but both Tucker and Johnson are having extraordinary experiences – and making hay with the rich opportunities they've embraced. For Tucker, it's been a question of discovering just how many legislative hurdles a researcher needs to

surmount before working with human subjects. For Johnson, it's nothing less than acceptance as one of a professional team in a key campus department.

They're cleaning datasets, learning how to discern findings, encountering stumbling blocks and figuring out how to traverse them, working with experienced mentors, and suggesting new projects of their own. Blending a natural, intense curiosity with their enviable research education on and off campus, these young undergrads are making a difference at SNC today, while creating a strong baseline for their futures.

## LUKE JOHNSON '21 Earning his place among the professionals

Luke Johnson has two research assistant roles: One comes with his on-campus job in the office of institutional effectiveness (OIE) and the other he's pursuing in the psychology lab as part of his psych major. The impetus for the first is campus-wide, the second deeply personal.

Johnson sees each as a means to help others, even when dealing with raw data. "It can be easy to get lost in that sometimes," he says, "... but because my coursework is in psychology, I'm seeing a lot of that other side – like what are people like, rather than seeing them as numbers."

Johnson is a valued member of the OIE staff team that serves all areas of SNC, keeping the college and its accreditors informed and accountable. His data work is displayed in the SNC FactBook's digital publication (at [snc.edu/oie](http://snc.edu/oie)) and in specialized work requested across campus.

If you didn't know the work was by a college junior, you'd think it was the output of a veteran researcher.

"We would not be able to accomplish the number of projects that we are able to do without his help," says **Carolyn Uhl**, OIE research analyst on the office's permanent professional team.

Johnson didn't arrive at SNC as a fully formed researcher. But he's finding it a great place to develop his research skills. And he's learning what it takes to undertake, share and take ownership of research

in a professional context. He says, "I was able to start this position beginning of my sophomore year. It's a mixture of a job and getting to do a lot of research and learn a lot of the techniques that, similarly, for the job aspect of this, are directly applicable to research. A lot of the things I'm learning are in SPSS [Statistical Packages for Social Sciences]." He's also mastering Tableau, a software platform that creates visualizations of data projects.

"I can imagine that we get a lot of those opportunities maybe a little earlier at St. Norbert just because it is a smaller environment and you have such a close relationship [with faculty]," Johnson says.

Johnson's OIE work serves the full campus, "whether that's a faculty member that's doing some program review for one of their courses, or an outsider or parent looking at St. Norbert, trying to learn something." It's useful to him, too. His OIE role is a job, yes, Johnson says, but it's one that marches well with his experiences in the classroom. For instance, he took a stats course early in his undergrad career. When he went back to take an advanced stats course, he found that because of his work in OIE he was already ahead of the curve.

Johnson is undertaking academic research within his major, too.

With **Michelle Schoenleber** (Psychology) as mentor, Johnson will look into the connection between anxiety and learning – a subject he's experienced first-hand. The pair have assembled materials to submit the study for approval by the Institutional Review Board.

His growth as a researcher at SNC has been increasingly important for him: "I was very happy, realizing as I was here that, 'Wow, I can really get involved in psychology research, the more statistical side of things through this job and other things I'm involved in a lot right now, which I really like.'"

Johnson is president of Wishmakers on Campus, which raises funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation; writes for the Honors Pulse, an honors program newsletter; serves as a torch leader for first-year honors students; and is vice president of the Psychology Club. His post-SNC path will include pursuit of a Ph.D. in psychology.



**RUTHIE TUCKER '22**  
**Before you can start, you have to get started**

Learning to be a researcher isn't easy, says Ruthie Tucker.

"I don't think I'm excellent at it," Tucker says, "but I think I'm improving how to do it. That's what I think the research fellowship is, for us to learn how to do research. And that's what the SURF [Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship] program is ... learning what research entails."

Tucker's work as a research fellow with SNC's SURF program – operating with a student-and-mentor model – will study the relationship between ethnicity and

education, a matter close to her. She began her work in summer 2019 and hopes to get approval to continue this summer, with mentorship from **Alexa Trumpy** (Sociology).

Among multiple lessons in research protocol that Tucker's learned, the process for Institutional Review Board approval is a most important one.

"You have to get approved to work with human subjects before you even do the research," Tucker says. "I wanted to research high school students, and they are typically under 18 years old. I wanted to work with schools, and that's a whole other thing. And then I wanted to work with minors. And I needed to report and then interview them. It was all these different documents and hoops I had to jump through."

As a member of the Menominee Nation, Tucker's experience in schools with mostly white populations raised questions for her about students in that setting.

"Does that affect their education because they're surrounded by peers of the race or peers that aren't of the race?" she says. "I wanted to know if that affects education, because it's a personal question for me."

After two weeks of considering options, she found her project's focus. "SURF allowed me time to develop a question, how

I wanted to go about the research process and just learn about the research process in the first place," she says. "I just sat down and did a lot of thinking about it, like by the river over there. I felt like I was just thinking about my experience. That's when I realized I always had that question [about the peer population surrounding Native students] and that I could research that sort of thing just by talking to the students."

At the end of the eight-week program, Tucker was scheduled to present her findings. Without completed research yet, she was nonetheless able to educate many in her audience by chronicling the necessary legislative and other hurdles that have to be surmounted to reach even the first steps toward what non-academics assume research looks like. "I just presented what I did for eight weeks, and what I was working on that for the last part," she says. She held her audience.

"I can't wait until I can sit down with students, collect what they tell me, and present it to the school board or a tribal government," she says. ♣

*Tucker, an elementary education major and double minor in early childhood and art, founded the Council for Indigenous People on campus in her first year at SNC. She hopes her research, as it develops, will help future Native students. She has a second research fellowship with SNC's Full Spectrum Learning initiative, on a team whose work was featured in @St. Norbert, online at [snc.edu/news/enews/archive](https://snc.edu/news/enews/archive).*

 **Alumni**  
 OF ST. NORBERT COLLEGE

## That's one more for the scrapbook



A snapshot taken on the St. Norbert campus has led to an annual tradition, seeing **Kristen (Brotten) Dummer '05** and her family (pictured) through five years – and a few family additions.

Kristen and her husband, Steve, along with their three children, visited the SNC campus in 2015, and they captured the trip with a photo of their kids on the grounds of Kristen's alma mater. When the Dummers welcomed their fourth child soon after, they made sure to update the family photo when they visited SNC the following year.

Since then, the Dummers have returned to campus each summer – oftentimes with one more youngster in tow. Their last two trips included their six children: Finley (8), Declan (7), Harper (6), Lachlan (4), McAllister (3) and Torryn (1½).

"We just started using the college as a backdrop, I guess," Kristen says. "I see us going there every year because it's such a gorgeous campus, and there's so many places to take interesting pictures."

It's also a way to connect her past with her present, she adds. "I love that when we have these pictures hanging in our home it's something too from my past that I love, so it's the best of everything: It's my family and then it's that history that I have there."


The Dummers travel from their home in Hartford, Wis., to visit the campus for SNC Day and the annual Track & Field and Cross Country Alumni Reunion, which includes a kids' run in which many of the Dummer children participate.

"One of their favorite things, and how we get them to kind of do well for the pictures – because it's a lot of people to get to look at a camera and even smile – they love the center of campus in front of Main Hall, the cement benches there that kind of form a circle. And they just love playing and running across the top of those. ... We always kind of save it for last and let them just go crazy there," Kristen says.

### Picture perfect

As the St. Norbert campus has grown over the years, so too have the photo opportunities. The Kunkel Meditation Garden and "The Conversion," a 16-foot sculpture depicting Norbert of Xanten's conversion, are recent campus installments that offer unique backdrops.

But many families – of alumni, current students and prospective students – often are found taking their photos in front of iconic mainstays like the SNC Arch and Main Hall. And, depending on the weather and the time of day, the Fox River provides a peaceful setting for photos, says SNC staff photographer **John Devroy**. It's also a great spot for photos of the campus itself. "The water can be as calm as a pane of glass in the evening, so there will be some brilliant reflections of the campus buildings in the water."

 Planning a visit? The Kress Inn offers discounted hotel stays to St. Norbert College alumni. [kressinn.com](https://kressinn.com)



served as principal at New London (Wis.) Senior High School, Lake Mills (Wis.) High School and Lake Mills Prospect Elementary School. He is survived by two daughters.

**1960 Richard Burgmeir**, of Brookfield, Wis., died Sept. 8, 2019, at the age of 82. He took over his father's cleaning business, The Burgmeier Co. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary, and five children.

**1961 John Kovarik**, of Parkersburg, W.Va., died June 10, 2019, at the age of 79. He worked at the AC Nielson Co. before pursuing a career in finance with Kimberly-Clark in Munising, Mich., and Niagara Falls, N.Y. He later worked for Marbon/Borg-Warner Chemicals in Parkersburg and served as a director at the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Public Debt. He is survived by five children.

**1961 Paul Geohegan**, of Lacombe, La., died Aug. 4, 2019, at the age of 88. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and worked for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. He was

appointed a special agent with the FBI and later supervised field-agent training. He is survived by his wife, Beth, and three sons.

**1962 Leslie Whipple**, of Fairfield Glade, Tenn., died Feb. 8, 2018, at the age of 89. He worked as a fourth-grade teacher and played saxophone, clarinet and flute professionally. He is survived by two sons.

**1962 Sandra (Willem) Dachelet**, of Riverview, Fla., died June 5, 2019, at the age of 78. She worked as an executive assistant at MacDill AFB. She is survived by two sons.

**1964 Gordon Poquette**, of East Peoria, Ill., died May 13, 2019, at the age of 77. He worked at the Racine City (Wis.) Health Department as an environmental health inspector before serving as director for the Fulton County (Ill.) Health Department and later the Tazewell County (Ill.) Health Department. He is survived by his wife, **Bonnie '64**, and three children, including **Brett '94**.

**1964 Agnes (Allard) Biese**, of Appleton, Wis., died Sept. 23, 2019, at the age of 77. She enjoyed musicals,

plays and concerts, and taking annual trips. She is survived by her husband, **John Jr. '60**, and three children.

**1965 Robert DeBoth**, of Green Bay, died June 9, 2019, at the age of 80. He served as an electrical engineer in the U.S. Army, completing a tour of duty in Anchorage, Alaska. He is survived by 10 brothers and sisters.

**1966 Sister Concepta "Connie" Wavrunek**, of Green Bay, died June 4, 2019, at the age of 92. She entered St. Francis Convent and professed her vows in 1949. She served congregations throughout Wisconsin. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

**1966 Louis Vanden Busch Jr.**, of Green Bay, died Aug. 27, 2019, at the age of 76. He worked as a teacher at Kaukauna (Wis.) High School and Southern Door (Wis.) High School before working in Catholic education at Notre Dame Prep School in Niles, Ill. He is survived by a sister.

**1968 James Thomas**, of Crandon, Wis., died Nov. 12, 2017, at the age of 89. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II before starting a career at

A. O. Smith. He is survived by six children.

**1969 John Skibba**, of Little Chute, Wis., died July 9, 2019, at the age of 72. He began his career as a manager of Wichmann's Furniture and worked as a physical therapy assistant. He is survived by two children.

**1969 Edgar Boehm Jr.**, of Marshalltown, Iowa, died Oct. 14, 2019, at the age of 79. He served in the U.S. Air Force as an air flight mechanic. He worked as a small-engine instructor, teaching auto mechanics at Marshalltown High School and Marshalltown Community College, and as an engineering instructor. He is survived by two sons.

**1970 Sister Angela Palm**, of Oconto, Wis., died June 19, 2019, at the age of 77. She professed vows as a sister of St. Francis of the Holy Cross in 1962. She worked as a teacher at many schools in Wisconsin and served as a pastoral associate at Holy Trinity and Stella Maris. She is survived by her brother.

**1970 James Baloun**, of Long Grove, Ill., died Aug. 24, 2019, at the age of 70. He spent his career as an accountant

and founded Baloun & Co. and CPA Aviation. He served two terms as village trustee for Inverness, Ill., and as president of the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District in Inverness for many years. He is survived by two daughters.

**1971 Jean (Martin) Bell**, of Ogden Dunes, Ind., died Aug. 22, 2019, at the age of 87. She was an educator for many years as well as a professional musician and published author. She is survived by nine children, including **Thomas Frigo '76**.

**1972 Michael Cornelius**, of Honolulu, died May 3, 2018, at the age of 68. He worked in advertising and media sales before beginning a career with The Ritz-Carlton Club & Residences. He is survived by his wife, Victoria, and a son.

**1973 Patrick Foley**, of Green Bay, died Aug. 28, 2019, at the age of 68. He made his career as a self-employed construction contractor in the real estate industry. He also spent time working at Hallmark Realty Group, Selmer Construction and Total Service Development. He is survived by his wife, Bridget, and two children.

**1974 Patti (Reinardy) Goring**, of West Bend, Wis., died Oct. 10, 2019, at the age of 67. She worked as a crossing guard for the City of West Bend and as a musician in the River City Irregulars. She is survived by her husband, **Andrew '74**, and four children.

**1975 Charles Kranzusch**, of Egg Harbor, Wis., died Oct. 7, 2019, at the age of 65. He worked in insurance and financial services for the John Hancock Life Insurance Co. He helped establish and was president of Valley Insurance Associates Inc. and Conceptual Financial Planning Inc. He is survived by his wife, Judy, and two sons.

**1978 Jerry Havel**, of Tucson, Ariz., died July 17, 2019, at the age of 62. He began his career with Dole Bananas, later working in sales and as marketing director for Fresh Farms. He is survived by his wife, Margie, and three children.

**1993 (M.T.S.) Mary (Heisz) Benoy**, of Middleton, Wis., died Oct. 7, 2019, at the age of 79. She ministered at parishes in Green Bay, Madison and La Crosse, Wis., dioceses before retiring. She is survived by three sons.

Keeping in touch



As a student at St. Norbert, **Ann (Morneau) Hollenback '56** worked closely with the **Rev. Anselm Keefe, Class of 1916** (pictured above with Hollenback in 1956). She served as a lab assistant and later taught with him.

Keefe was just one of the well-known SNC figures with whom Hollenback worked. She returned to campus after graduation, working during the 1970s and 1980s with the Theological Institute, a program for ongoing theological education directed by the **Rt. Rev. Joel Garner '62**.

Hollenback also spent time assisting **Dudley Birder** with auditions for the St. Norbert College music theatre program. Among her most memorable auditions was for a production of "The Wizard of Oz": "We auditioned for Toto's position," says Hollenback. "We had dogs lined up all around the theatre. People brought their dogs from all over the place. A dog came from Neenah with a four-page résumé. Dudley was great with casting."



Educator recalls Keefe's influence

At 85 years old, and in her 60th year as an educator, **Ann (Morneau) Hollenback '56** has no plans for slowing down.

"I have five classes and a study. I'm full-time," she says. "I haven't thought about retiring."

Hollenback, who has taught science at Notre Dame de la Baie Academy in Green Bay for the past 30 years, also held teaching stints at St. Norbert College and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and served as a teaching assistant at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

One of the things that keeps her in the classroom is feedback from former students.

"I had a voicemail message from a graduate," she remembers. "He was out of breath. He had come from his biology class and had his first test. He said that he aced it and it was easier than any test I had given him."

Though the average classroom has changed over Hollenback's six decades as an educator, her teaching style has remained steady, she says. She modeled it after the style of her mentor and friend, the **Rev. Anselm Keefe, Class of 1916**. Hollenback had taken Keefe's botany class in her first semester at St. Norbert.

"Father Keefe's method of teaching was

to wrap it around stories. With younger students, stories are even better. They have something to relate it to. The problem is the older I get the more stories I have to tell," says Hollenback with a laugh.

Hollenback arrived at St. Norbert in 1952, the first year the campus was co-ed. She earned degrees in chemistry and biology from St. Norbert at a time when few women pursued the sciences. She credits Keefe for setting her on her career path.

"Before the first semester was over, I knew what I wanted to do and how I wanted to do it," she says. "That was a gift. He was a gift in my life."

Hollenback served as a lab assistant for and later taught with Keefe, which opened her up to a future in education. Keefe encouraged her to follow in his own footsteps and attend UW-Madison for graduate school.

"He was very influential," says Hollenback. "It wasn't until I met Father Keefe and saw what an influence he had on people's lives that I thought, 'I could do that.' He was a big influence on lots of the decisions I made through the years. He really cared about students. He was just very talented. He was my mentor, my hero."

ANOTHER ERA



**Ann (Morneau) Hollenback '56** is one of St. Norbert College's first women graduates. She is one of 24 female freshmen who enrolled in the college in 1952.

Hollenback recalls the strong on-campus presence of the Norbertines and Saturday morning classes. "The campus was very different," she says. "There was a high percentage of Norbertine teachers and they lived on campus. They lived in the dorms. There was the old wooden priory. There wasn't an abbey at that time."

Other points of distinction: Students weren't allowed to have vehicles on campus, and they were required to turn off their radios by 9 p.m., Hollenback says.

Reliving the glory days

Dozens of alumni gathered in January to commemorate their Green Knight basketball days. Former teammates from both the men's and women's teams returned to campus for the 19th annual Alumni Basketball Reunion. Some even hit the court themselves for games featuring Green Knight alumni.

Mark your calendars for upcoming SNC reunions:

- 30 Years of BIG, April 17-19
- Outdoor Track & Field Alumni Meet, April 25

Learn more and register at [snc.edu/alumni/events](http://snc.edu/alumni/events).







Photo courtesy Disney+

**Devin Thomas '12** takes the role of Troy in the “High School Musical” episode of “Encore!”

**Green Knights share an ‘Encore!’**

A “High School Musical” reunion turned into a Green Knights gathering when Disney+ stopped by Fish Creek, Wis., to film an episode of its original series “Encore!”

The cast of Gibraltar High School’s 2007 musical were invited back to the stage for an encore performance of “High School Musical” for the reality show hosted by actress Kristen Bell. **Devin Thomas '12** and **Elizabeth “Betsy” Meyer '13** reprised their roles of Troy and Kelsey, respectively, reliving their high school days from 12 years before. Thomas, Meyer and their former castmates had five days to rehearse and put on a live show in front of friends, family – and cameras.

“It was exhilarating,” Thomas says in the episode. “Theatre is all about opening yourself up, kind of exposing yourself and creating that bond with people. It’s going to be an amazing memory to have.”

More Green Knights joined in to make the on-stage performance and episode come to life: **Courtney Hayes '07** worked as a production assistant and **Kent Paulsen** (Music) served as associate music director and keyboard player.

**2010 Callie Zippel**, of Kenosha, Wis., died Sept. 12, 2019, at the age of 32. She worked at the Society of Human Resources Management as field services director and helped create the “Honest HR” podcast. She is survived by her husband, Shane, and a stepson.

**2019 Amanda Mengel**, of Wausau, Wis., died Nov. 16, 2019, at the age of 22. She worked part time at the Boys & Girls Club and as an assistant teacher in the

Wausau Area School District. She is survived by her parents.

**Class Notes**

**1970 John Schneider** has shared his experience of meeting his idol, Edward Albee, in an article recently published by Shepherd Express. Schneider wrote that Albee (who spoke at St. Norbert College in the spring of 1968) changed Schneider’s life with his first full-length play,

“Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?”

“It would have been spring of 1968 when playwright Edward Albee, then 40 years old, spoke at my college in De Pere, Wis., stumping for antiwar Democratic presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy,” Schneider writes. “As president of the St. Norbert’s College Players, I was invited to a small after-party with faculty and administration. I sat on the floor at Albee’s feet, in love and speechless.

“Afterwards, I couldn’t sleep. When dawn broke, I walked 5 miles to his motel to see him off to the airport, surprising him. I asked him if he thought I should quit school then and there and move to New York to learn his new kind of theatre. He was gentle. ‘Finish college,’ he told me, ‘then decide. If you come, look me up, and I’ll help.’”

**1976 Patricia Vickman** has been featured in the Peninsula Pulse’s series showcasing alumni of Door County, Wis., schools. Vickman is the Southern Door (Wis.) School District superintendent.

**1978 Robert Zoellner** has retired as professor emeritus of chemistry from Humboldt State University. He and his wife, Barbara, plan to spend their retirement traveling.

**1981 Mike Olson** has been appointed assistant athletics director for basketball at Long Trail School in Dorset, Vt. He will also serve as the head basketball coach for the boys’ varsity team and will work as an associate director of admission for international students. Most recently, he led the basketball program at Kimball Union Academy in New Hampshire.

**1982 Thomas DeByle** has been appointed senior vice president and chief financial advisor of NN Inc. He previously served as vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer of Standex International Corp. He brings to his new role more than 30 years of experience in public company finance, capital markets, financial planning, operational management and the industrial manufacturing industry.

**1986 Margaret (Kerski) Cronin** has been named regional director for U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, serving eight counties in North Central Wisconsin. Her primary duties include overseeing The Joseph Project in Wausau, Wis.; constituent services; and outreach events on behalf of the senator. She previously served as district scheduler for former U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy of Wisconsin.

**1986 Colleen (Hickey) O’Brien** has been awarded a doctorate in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Her dissertation looked at the interaction of emotional intelligence and narcissism in the workplace. She is an assistant professor of management and marketing at Carthage College.

**1988 Debbie Prette** has accepted a promotion to manager of Unified Administration Professional Services at PowerSchool LLC.

**1989 Madia (Bendersky) Sargent** has earned a Master of Science in communication from Northwestern University.

**1992 Karina Willes** has completed a Ph.D. in communication from the University of Wisconsin-

Milwaukee, where she teaches as an adjunct assistant professor.

**1993 Laurie (Conn) Healy** has joined the advisory board of Recovree, a tech startup based in St. Paul, Minn., that aims to help people achieve and maintain sobriety.

**1999 Ryan Kane** has been named Ripon College’s new director of athletics. He oversees the development and student-wellness programming and serves as liaison with the NCAA and the Midwest Conference. Kane will continue to serve as the head men’s basketball coach at the college.

**2000 Amy (Arenz) Molfese** and her husband, John, opened their second location of Bella Cosa Jewelers in Wilmette, Ill. The first location in Willowbrook, Ill., celebrated its 19th anniversary in December.

**2000 (M.S.E.) Stacie (Cihlar) Ophale** has accepted positions as principal and summer school principal at Madison Elementary School in Manitowoc, Wis.

**2000 (M.S.E.) Nicole Colwin** received the 2019 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellow Award. Recipients chosen for this award exhibit exemplary skills as leaders and agents for positive change as well as superior abilities to inspire a love of learning. Colwin is in her 20th year of teaching at Shepherd of the Hills Catholic School in Eden, Wis.

**2001 Joseph Krautkramer** has accepted a position as director of human resources at Tweet/Garot Mechanical in De Pere.

**2001 Beth (Baumann) Mikkelsen** has earned a master’s degree in science education from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

**2003 Nick Llanas** has accepted a position as national sales manager at Commercial Zone Products in Milwaukee.

**2004 Ryan Fink** has founded Ryan Fink Magic Vacations, providing complimentary vacation-planning services, specializing in Disney vacations.

**2008 Lindsey (Pionek) Mattucci** has been promoted to associate creative director of HDMZ in Chicago. She will lead and manage the Design Studio at HDMZ to strengthen and transform health care and science brands through advertising and design.

**2008 Samantha Quinn** has accepted a position at Par University in Kansas City, Mo., as a tenure-track assistant professor of communication. She previously worked as a visiting assistant professor at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania.

**2009 Matthew Fox** has been promoted to region manager of Speedway in Eastern New Mexico and Western Texas. He will lead operations of 94 stores and support building the Speedway brand in the southwest.

**2009 Emily (Sherman) Sullivan** has been hired as athletic director at Dover-Sherborn Regional High School in Dover, Mass. She is the first woman to hold this position in the school’s history. Sullivan has worked in athletics for many years, previously holding coaching and administrative positions at Texas A&M and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

**ISO: Fellow Green Knight**

Hoping to reconnect with a classmate from St. Norbert? We can help with that! You’ll find our “Contact an Alumni Friend” form, along with plenty of other ways of staying in touch, on our website at [snc.edu/alumni/keepintouch](http://snc.edu/alumni/keepintouch).

**2009 Amy (Winter) Buffington** has earned a Master of Educational Leadership from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. She has been the principal at Sheridan (Wis.) Elementary School for the last three years.

**2010 Victor Newberg** has accepted a position at Goshen College as head coach of men’s soccer. He spent the last two years coaching at Trine University.

**2011 Stephen Schumacher** has accepted a position with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago as an external communications manager.

**2012 Anna Reardon** has accepted a position as digital producer for Hero Digital in San Francisco.

**2013 Bridget Haley** has been promoted to director of marketing for Harry Caray’s Restaurant Group.

**2014 Shaina (Beckers) Allen** has accepted a position as marketing coordinator for the Wisconsin Humane Society’s Green Bay campus. She also serves as marketing coordinator for the society’s Door County campus.

**2014 Lue Frommelt** has accepted a social

studies teaching position at St. Francis Xavier High School in Appleton, Wis. He previously worked for the Kilbourn Public Library in Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

**2014 Joseph Simurdiak** has been awarded the Killer Nashville 2019 Claymore Award for his historical fantasy novel “A Red Autumn Wind.” The Killer Nashville International Writers’ Conference brings together forensic experts, writers and fans of crime and thriller literature.

**2015 Lauren (Kleinman) Schumacher** has earned a Master of Science in special education from Western Governors University. She teaches social studies and at-risk students at Luxemburg-Casco (Wis.) High School.

**2015 Ryan Dauman** has been named supervisor of dermatopathology and Mohs (a microscopically controlled surgery used to treat common types of skin cancer) at UW Health in Madison, Wis.

**2015 Natasha Verhulst**, a teacher at Kiel (Wis.) Middle School, has been recognized for her work in advocating for Native American music to be incorporated into school curriculums. Verhulst, a member of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and a descendant of the Menominee Nation, was named a Feierabend Association of Music Education (FAME) Spotlight Teacher for her work on FAME’s diversity, equity and inclusion committee. Verhulst’s hope, according to the Herald Times Reporter, is two-fold: that all people

can experience Native American music, learn from it and have a better understanding of the culture; and that young native students can experience a part of their own identity in the music classroom.

**2016 Brenna (Rathsack) Van Rooy** has been named senior internal auditor at Schneider National.

**2019 Griffin Hoerchner** has been accepted into Concordia University-Wisconsin’s physical therapy program beginning in May 2020 through the new partnership between St. Norbert College and Concordia. *Learn more about the partnership at [snc.edu/prehealthpartnerships/concordia](http://snc.edu/prehealthpartnerships/concordia).*

**2019 Cameron Batty** has been named assistant equipment manager for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins Hockey Team.

**2019 Morgan Nickels** has accepted a position as a first-grade teacher at Westbrook Elementary School in Mt. Prospect, Ill.

**Louise (Endres) Moor '75** has published “Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman,” a story about the role her father, Alfred, had as a heavy-weapon machine-gunner – a fact Alfred’s family did not learn until he was in his 80s. In his review of the book, the **Rev. Brendan McKeough '47**, who also served in WWII, says, “[This book’s] descriptions of war allow me to see it, feel it and taste it. Readers will understand war in a way they never have.”

**Connie (Petullo) '77** and **Richard Gluth '76** have shared that they are blessed with seven grandchildren.

**Steve Hyde '96** and **Michael Hillmer '05** serve as co-head coaches for the No. 1 ranked soccer team in Manitowoc County.

More than a dozen alumni recently participated in the Discover Science Seminar series at St. Norbert College. The series introduced students in the natural sciences to a variety of jobs and careers achievable with a St. Norbert College degree in the sciences. Featured speakers included **Cindy Reinl '80**, **Mary Jo Grabner '83**, **Ann Harty '85**, **Dan Bougie '86**, **Ellen (Trimberger) Wiegert '86**, **Julie Peterson-Bougie '87**, **Bonnie (Bergholz) Atkinson '89**, **Sarah Loritz '90**, **Pamela (Hevelka) Rivard '96**, **Hai Nguyen '99**, **Ryan Fiorini '00**, **Craig Schaning '02**, **Brian Hoffman '05** and **Kalyn Witak '12**.

New hires at St. Norbert College include **Liz Hendricks '05**, gift processing and data services coordinator. **Kristy (Barnes) Andrews '04** has joined the office of admission as visit coordinator; she previously worked part time in Ed’s Café on campus.

**CORRECTION** In our Fall/Winter 2019 issue, we misstated the master’s degree earned by Alumni Award recipient **Bernadette “Bernie” Bach '79 M.T.S. '15**. Bach earned a Master of Theological Studies from St. Norbert in 2015.

**Share your news!** Submit your item at [snc.edu/go/keepintouch](http://snc.edu/go/keepintouch).

Keep track and connect with fellow alumni on Facebook. [facebook.com/sncalumni](https://facebook.com/sncalumni)



**In your opinion**

We ask, you answer – and that goes double for the latest magazine survey. For the first time, we were able to add a readership-online study, debuted in summer 2019. We wanted to know how aware our readers were of the online issue at [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine) and its associated e-newsletter, @St. Norbert. Very aware, it turns out! More than 90 percent of you have read, viewed, shared, bookmarked, interacted and in other ways engaged with our online content. That doesn’t mean you’re ready to forgo the print magazine delivered to your mailbox: 75 percent of you still prefer to read in print. Meanwhile, a separate sample of you took part in our ongoing survey that focuses on exactly that: the print magazine. (We’ve been conducting this study since 2010 in partnership with the Council for the Advancement & Support of Education, benchmarking our results against the 100-plus other schools that also use this tool.) Overall, we note that:

- Alumni in general value their college magazines highly. St. Norbert College alumni value their college magazine slightly higher still on most factors.
- You spend significant time with St. Norbert College Magazine: **93.5 percent** of you spend more than 10 minutes with each issue, and 59.7 percent spend more than 30 minutes.

You’re prepared to go to bat for your college, and we thank you for that! Actions like these, connected with your perusal of your magazine, are reported at notably above the national norm – and increasing:

- **34.5 percent** have recommended your alma mater to a potential student.
- **36 percent** have made a donation to SNC.
- **49 percent** have attended a college event.

*We gratefully acknowledge all those who responded to our surveys. We entered all email addresses provided into drawings for two \$100 Barnes & Noble gift cards, and the lucky winners were Sarah Piepenbrink '15 and Bob Broihier '71.*

### Friend's loss, shared loss

We're all connected to one another in more ways than we can imagine. Marquette University's sorrow at the loss of its business dean became higher education's too, and the more so at St. Norbert through the enduring scholarly friendship of Dean Joe Daniels with our own Marc von der Ruhr ("Personally Speaking").

If I've known one thing about Marc over the years, it is that he set a high value on his mentor and research partner; a touchstone friend a step or two ahead of him on the academic journey: a man, never named to me, whom he held in the very highest regard. So when Marc and I began talking about a topic for his "Personally Speaking" column, it was no surprise that this ongoing, formative and transformative friendship would weave its way into the piece.

As we wrapped up the final edit for this issue's page 10, the tragic news broke of a senior administrator who had been knocked down and killed on the Marquette campus. It was a desperately sad moment when Marc came over to share with me that this man was his friend. "Despite the 10-year age difference, we just became very close friends," he said. "When I told Joe that I could never repay him for all his help, his response was simply, 'You don't need to, but you want to pay it forward.'"

It is our privilege to dedicate this issue's Personally Speaking to a great educator.

*Susan Allen*

### WORDS & PICTURES

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**Vice President for Enrollment Management & Communications:** Edward J. Lamm

### TALK TO US!

We love to hear from you, and rely on you to keep us posted. You can find us at [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine), on Facebook, via [magazine@snc.edu](mailto:magazine@snc.edu) or 920-403-3048, or at:

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### Recommended viewing: Impressive, special and at home at SNC



"You were one of more than 120 students to attend Trustee Scholarship Day. Some of you are already published authors while others have participated in foreign-exchange programs. ... Your day began at Old St. Joseph Church where you heard impressive numbers and stories that made you, a member of the Class of 2024, feel special and right at home." Incoming SNC scholars received this video after SNC's most prestigious admission event of the year, as a souvenir of a day when they were recognized for their remarkable achievements. But we think it will make you feel proud, too, and not a little nostalgic! [youtube.com/stnorbertcollege](https://youtube.com/stnorbertcollege)

### Heart-to-heart ... on wheels

**Carol (Sessler) Bruess '90**, resident scholar at the Cassandra Voss Center (CVC), spent a chilly Valentine's Day talking all things relationships inside a cozy camper owned by her and her husband, **President Brian Bruess '90**, and parked outside Main Hall for the day.

Carol Bruess, an active researcher in the area of family and relationship communication, let her visitors choose the topics: from friendship, marriage and parenting to trust, vulnerability and conflict repair. "No, I'm not a therapist," Bruess says. "Yes, this is my area of research and teaching, and I love talking about how the relationship research can, literally, change your life!"

The event was part of the Conversations in the Camper series, hosted by the CVC, which explores how to better engage in difficult conversations.



It's a time-honored tradition, and this year it was the turn of the Class of 2020 to enjoy the annual Senior Wine Tasting. The seniors and their alumni hosts enjoyed an elegant dinner paired with carefully selected wines. As they sampled an array of vintages, visiting wine enthusiast **Jim Sutton '68** offered pointers to help further educate their palates.

### Language arts

A group of Vietnamese nuns studying at St. Norbert College shared information about their home culture during the Life, Language & Culture Fair that took place during International Week. **Sister Thi Lan Nguyen, Sister Thi Thuy Linh Dinh and Sister Thi Ly Vu** created the poster depicting Vietnamese culture and practiced their English skills during the fair's interactive poster session.



## Calendar

### March

- 24** Giving Day
- 26** Killeen Chair Lecture: "From Civility to Justice"
- 30** St. Norbert Community Band Spring Concert

### April

- 1-5** Theatre Studies Presents "Perfect Arrangement"
- 2** Knight Lights: An Evening at Schneider
- 2** Miller Lecture: "How Should We Resist Hate? Free Speech Vs. Censorship"
- 14-May 8** Senior Art Exhibition
- 24** Spring Band Concert
- 25** Outdoor Track & Field Alumni Meet

### May

- 1** Spring Choral Concert
- 8** Lake Geneva Golf Outing
- 8-9** Dudley Birder Chorale Presents "America Sings"
- 11** Golden Knights Spring Mass & Luncheon
- 16** Legacy Family Reception
- 17** Commencement

### June

- 11-17** SNC Music Theatre presents "Chess"
- 16-19, 23-26** Summer Academy of Medicine

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CENTER FOR NORBERTINE STUDIES & THE CASSANDRA VOSS CENTER

**YEAR OF NORBERTINE WOMEN**

Harvard professor Racha Kirakosian presents the 2020 St. Augustine lecture, "Nun on the Run: The Fugitive Canoness Countess Katharina of Wurttemberg," on April 14. Kirakosian will share her latest research on the influential 15th-century Norbertine from Wurttemberg, Germany, who exercised economic power in a way that eventually put her at odds with the pope.

**For details of these events and more, visit [snc.edu/calendar](http://snc.edu/calendar).**



### Eggsactly!

A clutch of raw eggs, a divisional dean, the faculty chair, a Segway and a balcony vantage point – what could possibly go wrong? Students in Physics 111 had devised a mathematical model for the physics of an object (in this case, an egg) dropping from a certain height onto a moving target (in this case, senior administration). Faculty chair **Cyndi Ochsner** (Chemistry) and **David Bailey** (Biology), dean for natural sciences, suited up and served as targets. GlideNEW donated use of the two Segways needed to pull the profs through the Gehl-Mulva atrium at the constant speed necessary. [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine)



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## Parting Shot / Hitting the Slopes

“Men do not quit playing because they grow old; they grow old because they quit playing.” – *Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.*

