

St. Norbert

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Norbentine
for nine centuries

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"I found that my entire life had been significantly changed by the gifts of deep personal enrichment and profound learning I had received, and keep on receiving – benefits I am confident you will enjoy as well if you choose to undertake similar endeavors."
– **Ken Zahorski** (English, Emeritus)



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The emergence of virtual education at St. Norbert gave rise to an idea: What if we could reach out to former students who were still just a few credits shy of completing their degrees, and offer them the chance to take that final course?



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"I had to take a deep dive into death," says woodworker and artist **C.C. Boyce '95** of her career-defining move into cremains preservation.

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Cover Story



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Awake, My Soul, Awake

On Christmas Day in the year of Our Lord 1121, a hush descended on a busy compound as a small band gathered in their church to profess their solemn vows and commit to a life together: a life dedicated to the service of God and their neighbors. From that event, history dates the beginning of a Church-changing, world-changing religious order, enduring and relevant.

On our cover: St. Norbert College congratulates Norbertines worldwide on the occasion of their 900 years together with God among the people.



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McDreamy is McDead

News about the relationships we have with people we don't even know: Parasocial relationships with celebrities and others are the subject of a growing body of work by **Valerie Kretz** (Communication & Media Studies) and her students.

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Short Takes on a Long History

From across time and around the globe, we bring you notes on things you never knew about a 900-year-old tradition still making a difference in the world today.



Online

A sampling of related content available at snc.edu/magazine.



In the beginning: Rituals like Convocation sanctify an exciting new beginning at St. Norbert (**page 4**). Starting college is a huge step – but it's not one that any of us takes alone.



In fun: "This is our chance for student orgs to show off all the great work that they do" (**page 9**). Visit the 2021 Involvement Fair!



In due course: **Scott Eastman**, Class of '96 and also the college's newest grad (**page 14**), celebrates his journey with nods to his late father, **Bill Eastman '55**, and sons **Abe** and **Jared Eastman '16**.



In media effects: Miss hitting the books? **Valerie Kretz** (**page 16**) offers "A Short Course in Media Effects," her upper-level course that digs into what social scientific research tells us about the uses and impacts of media. It's next up in our occasional series in which your St. Norbert education continues as we profile a course or lecture.



Injustice: Hand-written in ornately scripted German and bound in leather, the 265-year-old book is beautiful to behold. The story inside, however, is full of darkness. Its topic: the trial and execution of a Norbertine nun accused of witchcraft (**page 22**).



In his own time: This brief account, narrated by **Carol (Sessler) Bruess '90**, introduces Norbert of Xanten (**page 23**) and his work as reforming priest, peacemaker and champion of the Eucharist.

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





Off we go!

The annual Blessing of the Athletes at the start of each school year draws together all Green Knight athletes – more than 600 of them – from the college's 23 varsity sports.



Rituals like the Blessing of the Athletes, Convocation and the Mass of the Holy Spirit sanctify an exciting new beginning at St. Norbert. Starting college is a huge step – but it's not one any of us takes alone. snc.edu/magazine

A resounding sense of hope



President Brian Bruess '90 pauses, mid-pandemic, to consider trust, confidence and perseverance: hallmarks of character that helped safeguard Norbertine charisms through the order's 900-year history and that are guiding this Norbertine college's response to the challenges of the present day.



The 900th anniversary logo designs for Norbertine communities across the United States were designed at St. Norbert College, which joyfully shares in the order's jubilee celebrations.

A most stunning red cardinal perched on a limb just outside my window as I sat to write this letter. Some assert the cardinal is an earthly symbol of a heavenly messenger, delivering inspiration and encouragement from a loved one who is now in God's heavenly kingdom. Carol and I agree. With each visit from our feathered friends, our hope is renewed and our shared knowledge that we are never alone on this blessed journey is made present.

As we approach the joyous occasion of the Norbertine 900th Jubilee, I find myself filled with gratitude as well as hope. Gratitude for all of you who have contributed to the success St. Norbert College has experienced, and for the tremendous and enduring impact our collective work has had on so many generations of graduates.

St. Norbert College has, indeed, demonstrated a generative sense of community these past few years. We as a community are proud of what has been accomplished. And as we look to the future, our collective hope inspires our vision for yet more robust outcomes, even as we continue to navigate the ever-intensifying headwinds facing American higher education and the merciless global pandemic. Each of these challenges has elicited our better angels and convened our strongest expression of community.

I'm frequently asked: How has St. Norbert College been able to produce such impressive outcomes during a global pandemic, when so many other colleges are struggling? The answer: It's what feeds our community – a resounding sense of hope.

What is this brand of hope about which I speak?

It's of a kind best illuminated by Dr. Paul Wadell in his 2016 article for *America* magazine, "Hope: The Forgotten Virtue of Our Time." Paul writes, "Hope is not a fleeting emotion, much less an attitude that fades when life is hard, but a resilient stance toward life marked by trust, confidence and perseverance."

How did we trust? We believed in our students, who collectively demonstrated a deep desire to convene in person and remain together, as a community. Our students made tireless sacrifices for themselves and each other, and continue to do so today. We believed in our faculty and staff, who showed creativity

and revealed their innovative spirit as they adapted and found effective pandemic-proof ways to teach, coach, support, mentor, care for, collaborate with and advise students. Students, faculty, staff and our board of trustees – heirs of Norbert of Xanten who trusted in God's radical call – showed faith in each other and our mission.

How did we show confidence? Demonstrating confidence during a sustained crisis is not only hard, it's complicated. We showed what some would say was foolish confidence as we launched a strategic planning effort in spring 2021, smack dab in the middle of a pandemic. It wasn't enough to ask questions about making it through the academic year. We knew we simultaneously needed to stay focused on the horizon, actively planning for and pursuing the future. We actively sought the wisdom of our community. Like Hugh of Fosse, who in the 12th century had the confidence and skill to shape an international order from Norbert's charismatic vision, we are forging a future marked by more, bountiful, uncommon success.

How do we show perseverance? Our entire community, led by the admissions counselors and enrollment team, financial aid staff, coaches, and countless faculty and staff across areas, made possible the recruitment of one of our most exceptional classes in the history of the college. We not only persevered, we are already implementing and innovating across our strategic plan pillars: educational quality, financial and operational excellence and mission radiance. We are leading like the college's immigrant founder, Abbot Bernard Pennings, whose steadfast leadership through our first 50-plus years was never stagnant.

As we look back *and* look ahead, I want to say thank you. Thank you for being on the journey with this great college – one saturated with hope. Thank you for all you have done and will do to support our beloved St. Norbert College – making possible its continued flourishing. Never underestimate how your hope and faith in our beloved SNC continues to inspire ours – all of it a gift in the name of our great Creator. In the ever-wise words of Dr. Wadell: "Christian hope must be understood as both a gift and a calling."

NEW APPROACH



John Miller Jr., who took up his post as dean of curriculum and senior diversity officer on July 1, comes to St. Norbert from Benedict College where he was department chair and professor of social work. Before Benedict, he was a faculty member at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where he served as the inaugural provost's faculty fellow and led the university's diversity council. As chair of the council, Miller led a group of faculty, staff and student colleagues to establish the initial vision, mission and goals of the council to create and lead new diversity and inclusion campus programs.



Milestone for a diverse campus

Students of color entering St. Norbert make up more than 15 percent of the incoming class for the first time in college history. In fact, 16.4 percent of first-years now identify as part of this cohort. The statistic is no accidental piece of data: It's the result of years of commitment toward greater diversity on campus.

All this comes at a pivotal moment. The ongoing campus conversation on racial injustice has gained increasing urgency as protest around racial injustice grows across the country. The college has partnered in innovative programming on white privilege and anti-racism. SNC has added a program coordinator for Black student support, and this summer saw the appointment of **John Miller** (Academic Affairs) to a new deanship that anchors diversity in curriculum.

At a time when the college is uniquely positioned to further its work on equity, diversity and inclusion, it's especially exciting to see these enrollment figures says **Ed Lamm**, vice president of enrollment management and communications. Lamm and his executive director of admission,

Mark Selin, have been working to raise the percentage of students of color for some years. Selin says, "Our goal isn't just to see students in the front door. It's to see them walk across the stage in four years and receive that diploma from President Bruess."

Student tour guide **Marquise Weatherall '22** has joined the effort: "I've seen people of color increase across all different areas – sports, music, jobs, in the classroom; and all around campus. It's really awesome just to see that. That's one thing I'm always excited to share, especially with my story, me being an African-American from Chicago, Illinois."

Selin says it's time to set bigger goals. Miller agrees. The opportunity here at St. Norbert is unique: "What an inviting space, naturally! Can we do things to make our beautiful space as inviting to others to join our community as it is to us?" The new dean seeks more than a number based simply on race. He looks forward to greater diversity in terms of perspective, learning, sharing ... enjoying.

Moving and shaking



The 2022 US News & World Report rankings, released in September, sees St. Norbert College at number 40 among Top Performers on Social Mobility for National Liberal Arts Colleges. (The college, like its students, is on the move: this key indicator, aligned with St. Norbert's missional priority to make education accessible to the under-served, is up from 92 in 2020.) *More news on the rankings on page 8.*

Meet the new class

The incoming Class of 2025, 584 students strong, is among SNC's most academically and athletically outstanding, and draws from 23 states – a new record.

- 25 is the average ACT score (45 students scored a 30 or higher)
- 23 students were high-school valedictorians
- 200 took AP courses
- 181 were inducted into the National Honor Society

Speaking of which ...

SNCtalks

A new storytelling platform gives eight members of SNC's campus and alumni communities a chance at TEDx-style speaker coaching as they prepare for the first-ever SNCtalks event. The March 4 program is designed to amplify voices by empowering members of the SNC community to share a vibrant, highly-polished talk inspired by the phrase "Own Your Impact" (one of the pillars of the college's Respect initiative). SNCtalks is being developed by a diverse group. The development team, including **Alaina Morales** (Library), **Breena Hanson '22** and **Carol (Sessler) Bruess '90**, sees the event as an expression of SNC's mission of *communio*, providing a space and time for hearing others' stories and embracing our shared humanity. The organizers are now accepting nominations for a potential 2023 event.

Upward bound



St. Norbert maintains its place among the top 10 Catholic liberal arts colleges in the nation and moves into the top-tier rankings for national liberal arts colleges in the 2022 US News & World Report rankings. SNC is also recognized by The Princeton Review as a "Best College" and appears on the Templeton Foundation's Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges.

Noted / Adding to the Sum of All Knowledge

Helping Black girls thrive

April 2021 marked a milestone in an important project for **Bola Delano-Oriaran** (Education) with the publication of "Teaching Beautiful Brilliant Black Girls." Delano-Oriaran (pictured) is the lead editor of the book, a collective call-to-action for educational justice and fairness for all Black girls. It focuses on helping educators transform how Black girls are understood and taught, and explores how they can succeed in the classroom. Gloria Ladson-Billings, Kellner Family Professor of Urban Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, calls it "a timely and insightful volume that addresses the amazing diversity and complexity of Black girls and their triumphs and challenges. The editorial team led by Dr. Bola has assembled a stellar group of authors that bring us the essence of Black Girl Joy."

Beverly Daniel Tatum, president emerita at Spelman College, says: "Grounded in both research and practice and brought to life by personal narratives of students, teachers and parents, 'Teaching Beautiful Brilliant Black Girls' is an important pedagogical resource for all educators who want to empower rather than impede the holistic development of the Black girls in their classrooms."



Enya Roach '17, **Laura Jones '18** and **Victoria McNeal '15** were among the 80-some contributors to the volume. They cowrote the chapter titled, "A Systemic Response to Creating a School Where Black Girls Can Thrive."

Geography

Mark Bockenbauer (Geography) is one of three authors of "Human Geography: A Spatial Perspective," an AP Human Geography textbook offered by National Geographic. The program emphasizes learning through inquiry and incorporates storytelling by National Geographic Explorers to demonstrate how humans interact with their environments.

Philosophy

Cambridge University Press has published a book-length translation project, "William of Ockham: Questions on Virtue, Goodness, and the Will," by **Eric Hagedorn** (Philosophy). Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy has pub-

lished Hagedorn's "On Loving God Contrary to a Divine Command: Demystifying Ockham's Quodlibet III.14."

Leadership

A piece co-authored by **Ann Hintz** (Academic Advisement), "Cultivating Leadership Opportunities to Develop as a Professional", was published in Academic Advising Today by NACADA.

Biology

SNC lab partners **Logan Elkin '23** and **Will Butak '23** presented at the 72nd Annual Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists (AMCOP). Their project began in spring 2021 with a collaborative student-faculty research grant under the tutelage of

Anindo Choudhury

(Biology).

"We tested a new group of barcode primers for targeting a parasite gene," explains Elkin. "Not literally a barcode, but the general idea is that it targets a short sequence of DNA that can instantly identify different types of species." Among those in their audience was one of the world's leading experts on this type of barcoding, says Choudhury.

Theology

The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion includes the entry "Qohelet/Ecclesiastes" by **Tom Bolin** (Theology & RS).

English

An article by **Erika Ditzman '21** on

"The Fear and the Fascination of the New Woman in George MacDonald's 'Lilith'" appeared in North Wind: A Journal of George MacDonald Studies.

Classics

A translation from the Latin by **Halle Martin '23** of the charter that established the first abbey in 1121 has appeared in The Communicator, the journal of the English-speaking Norbertine houses.

Mathematics

A presentation by **Nathan LeRoy '22** on "Survey Labyrinth Probabilities" garnered the Pi Mu Epsilon Speaker Award at the 2021 Mathematical Association of America MathFest.

Scrub-a-dub-dub / Pause for Paws



Dog days

A lot of hounds left campus cleaner than they arrived after this dog-wash event offered by Pause for Paws. The student org connects students with man's best friend, and all proceeds from this event went to the Happily Ever After animal shelter.



More than 100 student orgs on campus pitched their offerings at this year's Involvement Fair. snc.edu/magazine

How sweet the gift unexpected

On a frigid, snow-sparkling morning I took out a pen and began setting down on an old yellow pad what it was like growing up on a hilly, rocky 80-acre hardscrabble dairy farm in northwestern Wisconsin during the 1940s and 50s. I wanted to preserve these precious memories, to recapture stories involving my grandparents, parents, four siblings, aunts and uncles, spiritual guides and teachers. In short, I wanted to reflect on the formative influences in my life, on the people, places and events that made a difference, that helped shape the person I am today.

But how best to do this? What literary medium to employ for the job? Finally deciding on the prose vignette as my primary mode of introspection, I set to work. That's when I encountered the first of several delightful surprises. Rereading my prose sketches, I discovered that many felt and sounded like poetry.

Granted, the genre's distinctive architecture was absent, but other poetic traits such as evocative imagery, internal rhythm, figurative language and conciseness were there. And so I began thinking poetry – transforming paragraphs into stanzas, creating fresher and more powerful figurative language, working on accent and meter and rhythm.

Another surprise awaited me. As I composed more poems about my kinfolk I discovered that their lives were really quite interesting, even colorful and compelling.

So engaging, in fact, that I eagerly embarked on a family history, at first envisioning merely a long essay, but soon accepting the reality of a manuscript rivaling the heft of a Tolstoyan novel. Finally, after three years of research, writing and developing a decent case of carpal tunnel, I at last held in my trembling hands three volumes comprising 600 plus pages, not including a lengthy appendix of character sketches of my blood aunts and uncles, all 18 of them.

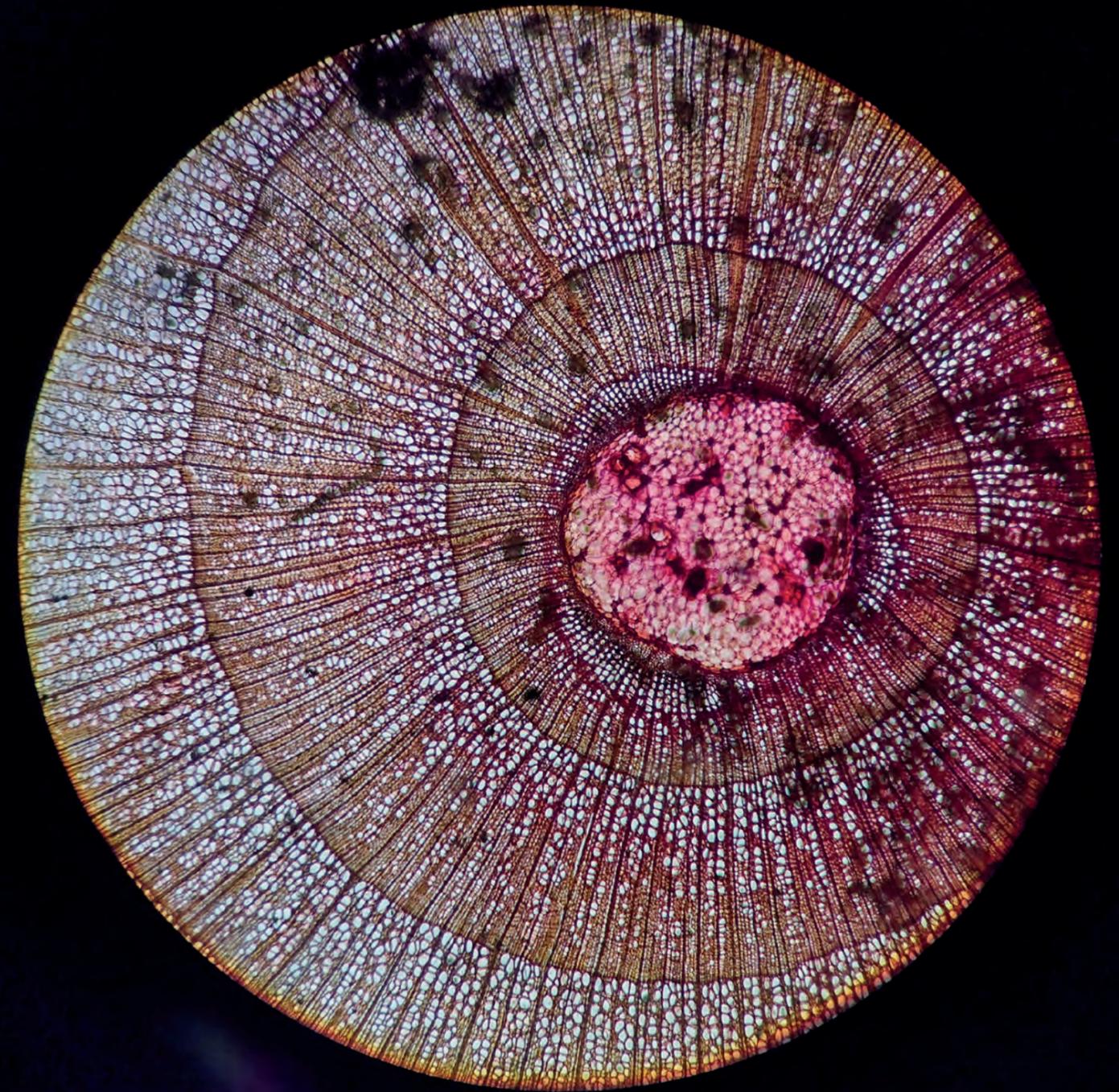
A third surprise was that one

endeavor nurtured and reinforced the other. My research for the family history provided raw material and inspiration for scores of poems, and the work on my poems made my treatment of personages in the history more sensitive, textured and concrete. You can imagine my elation. Had I been younger and more agile, I might have frisked about like a colt in a springtime mountain meadow, or at least attempted a few bouncy steps of a spirited galliard. I settled for a lingering inward smile.

The fourth and final surprise was in many ways the most important. I found that my entire life had been significantly changed by the gifts of deep personal enrichment and profound learning I had received, and keep on receiving – benefits I am confident you will enjoy as well if you choose to undertake similar endeavors. First, writing poetry has helped me better understand myself as well as the passages and seasons of life, especially the challenges, limitations, joys and gifts of elderhood. In addition, writing poetry has helped me become a much better observer. I now find myself regularly practicing “slow seeing”; that is taking more time to look closely and sensitively at the details of common place objects and activities, what Kathleen Norris calls the “quotidian mysteries.” Then, too, writing poetry has forced me to seek unbroken periods of solitude and stillness. This alone constitutes one of the most significant and satisfying lifestyle changes I have ever experienced. And, finally, writing poetry has enabled me to feel the inimitable joy, the profound satisfaction, of the singular, awe-inspiring act of creation.

My grand adventure began quietly in January 2005, shortly after I retired from my four-decade teaching career at St. Norbert College. I must confess to having one regret about my adventure. A poignant one, indeed. I fervently wish I had begun writing the family history and poems sooner. When I commenced my creative journey I had five uncles and aunts from whom I could draw stories and genealogical information. Two years later all had passed, and my mother, another invaluable source of information and inspiration, was bereft of speech after a series of terribly debilitating strokes. Something the great artist Michelangelo once wrote reflects powerfully my own feelings. Shortly after his death, this note was found pinned to his studio wall: “Draw, Antonio. Draw, Antonio. Draw and do not waste time. Do not procrastinate. Do not delay. Draw.” My wish for you is that when you hear creativity's knock, you do not delay opening the door. Your warm welcome may well result in an opportunity of savoring the candied truth of the sage old saying “the unexpected gift is always the sweetest.”

Ken Zahorski (English, Emeritus) now serves the college community as its ombuds. He is the author of 12 books of literary criticism and six volumes of poetry. Two of his books of verse are available from St. Norbert College Press.



Cate Nelson '24
2021 SURF Fellow

Sustainable choices, and inspiring people to make those sustainable decisions, is really important to me. I use my art to speak to that. I was studying organisms I thought I knew, like flowers and algae, but under a microscope, they were so beautiful and so different – I thought it was the coolest thing. I painted four original art pieces to show others these subjects I loved. Some of my pieces are more closely representational, some of

them are looser interpretations inspired by what I saw, but all of them are inspired by amazing subjects.

Taking a photo is not necessarily a good representation of everything you can see under the microscope. You can't bring each layer of a slide into focus at the same time, so you can't capture the depth and the detail. Through drawings and paintings, I can recreate and deepen the experience of looking through

a microscope. This particular specimen is from a small tree branch that's about three years old. I loved the intricate cells and the sense of growth and motion.

Cate Nelson '24 is a double major in environmental science and art. This summer, she took part in the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows program.

All the best



Four Green Knight women's golfers achieved Women's Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar status at the end of the spring semester, and the Knights also boasted a conference-high 99 student-athletes named Academic All-Midwest Conference. The women's indoor and outdoor track and field program alone garnered a St. Norbert-best 34 honorees.

The new All-Americans are **Bree Borgen '23, Cameron Kaehler '23, Lucca Kenyon '22 and Ella O'Connell '24.**

Armored for the fight

Green Knight men's basketball takes on the Fighting Irish Nov. 5, for a much-anticipated exhibition game. **Coach Gary Grzesk** says: "We are very fortunate to be playing Notre Dame this year. Division I exhibition games are difficult to schedule. Notre Dame is widely recognized as one of the top Catholic universities in the United States, and St. Norbert is one of the premier Division III Catholic colleges in the Midwest."



The team plans to travel to the Indiana campus the day before the game, where a campus tour and practice in the Joyce Center are slated. "We didn't get to play last season, so I'm thankful this team gets this once-in-a-lifetime experience," says Grzesk.

Race to success



*If you spot a slender man with sandy hair laboring along the Fox River Trail, it's probably **Cam Fuller**, St. Norbert College's new director of athletics and physical education. Fuller tries to run 100 miles every month. "Why 100 miles, I am not sure," he says, "but, as a competitor, having a goal helps me stay motivated." Fuller, who joined SNC in June after spending the previous eight years as the Horizon League's assistant commissioner for competition, branding and sponsorship, has set plenty of lofty goals for himself on the job as well.*

Why did the job appeal to you? For any individual to be successful there must be a fit and a similar ethos. From the first conversation I had with the leadership team at St. Norbert College, I knew that there was a strong value alignment.

What do you see as your biggest challenge? We are joining a new athletic conference – the Northern Athletic Collegiate Conference – for the majority of our sport programs. In addition, the NCAA is evaluating how the organization should operate in the future.

What changes do you envision for St. Norbert athletics? During the interview process, I had over 100 meetings with our head coaches, support staff, partners on campus, supporters in the community and others. The key themes allowed our

staff to develop our strategic priorities, which include our core values and 17 goal areas that tie to our four athletic pillars: athletic success, academic success, community success and student-athlete experience.

You've already instituted a few changes. Our sponsorship base has increased from 11 to 17 partners, and we have seen multiple new endowments. In addition, we will be announcing a partnership with Nike that will see nearly every student-athlete don the swoosh on their jersey. Aligning with a nationally recognized brand will help as we build excitement for our programs and connect with recruits. We've put an early emphasis on social media, [our] website, and streaming, to tell the story of our student-athletes.

Who has had the greatest influence on you? I grew up in a strong household, and my parents and my brothers taught me the value of working hard and being a good teammate. As the youngest of three boys, I also had to have tough skin.

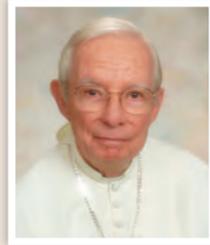
What keeps you awake at night? The complexity of overseeing 23 sports programs and nearly 600 student-athletes in an evolving college sports world can be difficult. We will compete in nearly 350 events this year. (But) if something is keeping me up at night, it is usually getting home late from an event!



Good to see you again!

The sun was out and smiles were also lighting up the faces of friends as neighbors and parents poured onto campus for SNC Day 2021. It was a cheerful sight to see making its comeback this September, after the open house went on a one-year hiatus in 2020 as the first wave of the pandemic was building in Wisconsin. Back on the program this year: music, food, family fun and tours by any means at hand.

Remembering
Abbot DeWane



The college community remembered with gratitude the legacy of **Abbot Emeritus Thomas DeWane '55**, when it learned of his death, July 31, at the age of 89.

DeWane, fifth abbot of St. Norbert Abbey, felt he was "born to be a priest." He was vested as a novice, professed Simple Vows and professed Solemn Vows on Aug. 28 – the Feast of St. Augustine – in 1950, 1952 and 1955 respectively. During his seven decades in ministry, he served in multiple roles at both college and abbey.

Always an educator, DeWane was appointed dean of students at SNC in 1970 and later served on the college board of trustees. In 1983 he returned to campus full-time to serve as the director of teacher education, a position he held for nine years. DeWane was named director of formation for the abbey in 1993 and, in April 1994, he was elected as fifth abbot, receiving his abbatial blessing from Bishop Robert Banks in June that year.

After his nine-year term as abbot, DeWane moved

to the Priory of St. Moses the Black in Raymond, Miss., where he ministered in several parishes and at a state correctional facility. He retired to St. Norbert Abbey in 2019.

DeWane is survived by his Norbertine confrères, a sister and many nieces and nephews.

Trustee bishop



Pope Francis has appointed the **Most Rev. Dan Felton '77** as bishop of Duluth. Felton was ordained a bishop on May 20, 2021. A college trustee since 2011, Felton is former vicar general of the Diocese of Green Bay. He also served Green Bay as moderator of the curia, and in an earlier role was the director of affiliate affairs for the Catholic Telecommunications Network of America. He now shepherds a diocese of 22,354 square miles, home to more than 53,000 Catholics.



Journey to the finish

The emergence of virtual education at St. Norbert gave **Carolyn Uhl**, director for the office of institutional effectiveness, an idea: What if we could reach out to students a few credits shy of completing their degrees, and offer them the chance to take that final course? She brought the idea to **Jenn Bonds-Raacke**, provost and vice president for academic affairs, who helped assemble a team that included **Lauren Gaecke** (Registrar) and **Jill Dougherty** (Academic Affairs) to find and help enroll eligible students.

The project embodies the St. Norbert spirit says Bonds-Raacke: "I love that the idea came from my team. We have been working so hard to be innovative and think about how we can live out our mission. If we are Norbertine and Catholic, how can we help our community more than our colleagues at some other institution. I love that mission-aligned innovation."

Four students took classes online over the 2021 summer term. (Classes over the summer and J-terms are offered at a discounted rate.) Two took a theology course on the New Testament taught by **Kathleen Elkins**, and two took a seminar course on Norbertine, Catholic

and liberal arts traditions taught by Bonds-Raacke. One student was able to gain their degree through approval of an already completed substitute course.

The classes served as a tying of the bow on the students' St. Norbert education. **Scott Eastman '96**, a student in Bonds-Raacke's course, says in his final project: "I can't tell you how much I value, or how much value I've taken, from this opportunity and challenge to pause my life just for a moment and reflect on how my experience at St. Norbert College has impacted my life." He adds, "My life is better because of this experience."

Eastman's experience was unique, but his fellow graduates relayed a similar sentiment. And the team at St. Norbert is energized to grow the program. Bonds-Raacke says: "This opens the door for what other students can do to complete their degree. ... The college has changed in the last 15-20 years. What couldn't students do back then that they can do now? What can we do to think creatively that helps them now?"

 New grad **Scott Eastman '96** celebrates his journey with nods to his father, the late **Bill Eastman '55**, and sons **Abe and Jared Eastman '16**. snc.edu/magazine

Retirees leave lasting legacies



Several distinguished members of the St. Norbert College faculty retired at the close of the 2020-21 academic year. We celebrate their contributions and commitment to our mission and students.

Russ Feirer (Biology) taught every single biology major for nearly 30 years. That's almost 1,400 students in all. Feirer's work with students in the fields of molecular biology and the genetics of cancer cells has been widely published and presented at national scientific meetings. He served as the college genetics expert and taught the popular "Biology of the Cancer Cell" course. Forever a voracious learner, Feirer (above) adapted many advancements in his field to his courses, keeping his students on the cutting edge.

John Pennington (English) closed out a 20-year tenure at SNC. He taught courses in literary theory, science fiction, fairy tales and 19th to 21st century British literature. He also served in two important student-focused positions at the college: 12 years as director of the Writing Center and eight as director of the St. Norbert Center for Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activity. He mentored students in his 16 years as adviser for the SNC Times and 26 years as adviser of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society. A renowned George MacDonald scholar, Pennington was the author of several critical editions of works

by the Scottish spinner of tales.

Ed Ridsen (English) taught over 35 different courses in his 31 years at the college. They ranged from the legendary tales of Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton to Tolkien's epic novels and even playwriting. Outside of the classroom, Ridsen served on countless committees and took on leadership positions. His works of fiction, which include three novels released in 2020-21, are also highlights among his substantial achievements. In addition, he has had monographs and articles published concerning aesthetics, Tolkien and Anglo-Saxon humor.

Granted emeritus status along with this year's retirees is the late **Ray Zurawski** (Psychology). Zurawski served as mentor and innovative teacher to SNC students for more than three decades until his death Nov. 3, 2020. He led many student learning assessment initiatives, constructing assessment measures for general psychology and research methods courses that were used in his discipline for more than 20 years. Zurawski served on nearly every major college committee and, in his most recent position, he served as the associate vice president for institutional effectiveness. His presentations on assessment and student learning outcomes continue to benefit the greater academic community.

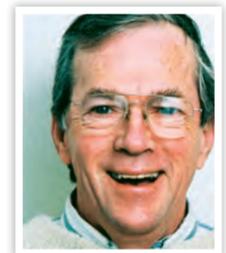
WILLIAM KOMSI 1938-2021

The college celebrates the life of **William "Bill" Koms**, who died Jan. 17. Koms was a longtime college executive, serving as chief financial officer for UW-Milwaukee and St. Olaf College, and vice president of business and finance at St. Norbert College, retiring in 2000. During his time at SNC, he played a large role in the building of Cornerstone Ice Rink and Schneider Stadium, and also helped advance the college's technology department.

Dick Rankin, former VP of student life, recalls Koms's innovational and generous tendencies: "Bill thought outside the box, thought ahead and gave willing support. He had the foresight to make SNC on the cutting edge with employee benefits." Rankin remembers the renovation of Boyle Hall. The building needed improved accessibility, so Rankin went to Koms for help, and within two weeks, Koms had funding for a ramp. "He was very attentive and willing to pitch in ... just a genuine good person."

KELLY COLLUM 1938-2021

St. Norbert mourns the loss of **Kelly Collum**, who died Jan. 20. Collum came to SNC in 1967 and served as a professor of communications and theatre for the next 38 years. He directed more than 130 SNC productions and influenced multiple generations of young artists.



Vibeke Schultz '00, recalls, "Kelly was a teacher who dared to be personal, and because Kelly cared. ... He could be capricious and whimsical and full of mischief, as well as thunderous and serious and intense."

Before his time at the college, Collum served in the U.S. Army during the Cuban missile crisis, worked for the FBI, and trained and worked as an actor in New York City. He truly loved the theatre, as evidenced by his involvement in local community theatre groups, serving as a judge for high school theatre and speaking competitions, and traveling with his wife, Melissa, to Rwanda to train local actors.

Barney Johnson, former director of theatre studies, says: "Kelly was superb with young actors, and they really appreciated him. Most of our shows were highly successful due to Kelly's ability to draw the best out of his young talent." The college offers the Excellence in Theatre scholarship in Collum's honor.

Collum is survived by his wife Melissa, stepdaughter Erin Cotter and sons Malcolm, Brian and Kevin.



and other news about the relationships we have with people we don't even know

By Geraldine Brennan

If you'd like to understand human relationships better, seek out **Valerie Kretz** (Communication & Media Studies) in her media psychology lab and ask her about "Grey's Anatomy." Or, as she's often busy analyzing our responses to this television series and other entertainment media, watch it and observe for yourself.

The death of Dr. Derek "McDreamy" Shepherd after 10 years and 241 episodes of the medical drama fuelled Kretz's study of fans' Twitter feeds after the event. "McDreamy is McDead: Fan Responses to a Parasocial Break-Up" appeared in the scholarly periodical *Journal of Fandom Studies*.

Parasocial? It's the academic term to describe the bonds we form with people that we don't know. We don't know them because they are celebrities, or Instagram influencers, or royalty or (let us break it to you gently) Not Real. They're people like Harry Potter, Anne of Green Gables, Bart Simpson or indeed McDreamy himself.

"Grey's Anatomy" is now up to season 17 and more than 370 episodes, all rich in material for Kretz and the students working with her in her (currently informal) lab. "Many of [the students] were aged 10 when the series launched but they've gone back to the beginning on Netflix," says Kretz.

The fictional Grey-Sloan Memorial Hospital's real-time response to the Covid pandemic has prompted a further study, this one on how viewers responded to TV drama scenes including people staying home, tele-commuting to work and wearing masks in public. "It connects to our parasocial bonds again, when we are affected by seeing the characters we know experiencing things that we can relate to. Over a series we can see characters develop and grow as people." (Kretz's paper on this topic, co-authored with Veronica Hefner of St. Mary's College of California, will be presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention in November.)

So it was written in the stars that "Grey's Anatomy" would be one of the screen media samples featured in another of Kretz's

recent publications on emotional responses to, and enjoyment of, depictions of romantic relationships. "Who Feels All the Feels?", in the *Iowa Journal of Communication*, looks at how entertainment media intersects with our real-world romantic relationships.

In the study, couples in established relationships (more than three months – that's a long time in a pandemic) answered questions about their level of satisfaction with their relationship, watched a mainstream entertainment video clip that features romantic relationships and immediately logged their emotional responses to the material and their enjoyment level – whether they found it funny or inspiring.

As well as "Grey's Anatomy," the clips randomly assigned to the participants were from a TV sitcom ("The Big Bang Theory") and two popular films ("50 First Dates," a romantic comedy and "The Notebook," a romantic drama). All the clips depicted romantic relationships, either in a positive light or under stress.

"What I was interested to know was how those big romantic moments or gestures that you get in these films made the viewers feel," says Kretz. "Did they feel inspired or jealous, and how did that relate to how they felt about their own relationships? The TV depiction of romantic relationships is usually less idealized. In 'The Big Bang Theory,' relationship problems are a source of comedy. Sitcoms are almost always fed by couples' struggles. How did they feel about that?"

As Kretz suspected, the respondents with "a high level of relationship satisfaction" were more likely to be amused by the content and also more likely to be left feeling hopeful (those feelings we have been chasing for the past year). "Think of it as the 'rich-getting-richer' effect," says Kretz.

But the key factor in how the viewers felt about the material was not whether they were already fans of the shows, how they felt about their own relationship or how old they were. (The survey pool was aged between 18 and 64). Instead, their responses were often driven by their individual approach to relationships in general, represented by their attachment orientation: anxious (fear of rejection) or avoidant (fear of intimacy), related to the attachment theory first outlined by John Bowlby in 1969.

"Attachment orientation is formed when you're an infant, it has to do with how responsive your caregiver is. Though it can change over time, it influences the relationships we have throughout our lives and it is a driver in how we respond to depictions of relationships.

"Your own view of your own relationship is not objective. If you're avoidant, it's possible you don't perceive yourself as all about relationships, and the content about relationships means less to you, regardless of how it compares to your own experience."

Miss hitting the books? Valerie Kretz offers "A Short Course in Media Effects," her upper-level course that digs into what social scientific research tells us about the uses and impacts of media. It's next up in our occasional series in which your St. Norbert education continues as we profile a course or lecture taught by our own faculty. (And this time, there's no final!) snc.edu/magazine.

Finally, Kretz and co-author **Anna VanSeveren '21** have been working on a study of entertainment media as sexual assault prevention. Back to that hospital in Seattle and a particular episode of "Grey's Anatomy" (episode 19 season 15), in which a young woman arrives in the emergency room having been sexually assaulted. Another character recalls past trauma related to sexual assault and a teenage boy receives advice about asking for consent.

"Our question was, can you show that episode to someone and impact their attitudes and intended behavior, through their being immersed in the story and experiencing empathy with people who have experienced sexual assault? It's an important piece of work. We had relatively few male students taking part, and that is something we would want to change in a follow-up study, but the attitudes in favour of positive change were the same across genders."

Kretz and VanSeveren will present their findings to date at the National Communication Association convention.

"I'm working on students getting more involved in my research, including coming up with ideas that we can look at together," says Kretz. "Admissions has given me a grant to involve freshmen. **Gracie Giese '25** and **Ellie Catania '25** will be joining me. There's exciting times ahead." ♣



Reading list

Valerie Kretz earned her M.A. from Marquette University and her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. All the publications referenced in this article are publicly available online:

"McDreamy is McDead: Fan Responses to a Parasocial Break-Up" *Journal of Fandom Studies*, Volume 8 Number 2

"Who Feels All the Feels? Individual Differences in Emotional Responses to and Enjoyment of Depictions of Romantic Relationships" *Iowa Journal of Communication*, Volume 52 Number 2

"Television and Movie Viewing Predict Adults' Romantic Ideals and Relationship Satisfaction" *Communication Studies*, Volume 70 Number 2

AWAKE, MY SOUL, AWAKE

Norbertine for 900 years

By Rob Kaiser, Susan Allen and Eric Schreiber

On Christmas Day in the year of Our Lord 1121, a hush descended on a busy compound as a small band gathered in their church to profess their solemn vows and commit to a life together: a life dedicated to the service of God and their neighbors. From that event, history dates the beginning of a Church-changing, world-changing religious order, enduring and relevant. This year, the Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré – the Norbertines – rejoices in its 900 years together with God among the people.

He wakes before dawn.

Blinking in the 5 a.m. darkness of eastern Pennsylvania, the **Rev. Andrew Ciferni '64** of Daylesford Abbey in Paoli may be the first Norbertine awake in America. But as the new day slowly blooms west across the United States, it will engulf other priests in multiple time zones: men like the **Rt. Rev. James Herring** at Bayview Priory in Middleton, Del., and the **Very Rev. Brad Vanden Branden '09** of St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere; and the **Rev. Eugene Gries '62** and the **Most Rev. Joel Garner '62** of Santa María de la Vid Abbey, in Albuquerque, N.M.; and the **Very Rev. Chrysostom Baer**, prior of St. Michael's Abbey in Silverado, Calif. And it will start all over again – a day in the life of a Roman Catholic order that is 900 years old.

That's how long since that headstrong young preacher, Norbert of Xanten, established the first Norbertine abbey, in Prémontré, France, in 1121. On Christmas Day this year, Norbertines around the world join in celebration of the order's 900th anniversary.

The story of the Norbertine order, however, is best told not in years but in days – those that define and are defined by

the lives of the people who keep the order vital, from the time they get up in the morning to the time they go to bed at night.

As Ciferni writes a letter of recommendation for a student at St. Norbert College, where he is chair of the board of trustees, Herring – in the next time zone over – is waking, saying a prayer, making his bed and getting dressed. And as Herring is drinking his orange juice and coffee, Ciferni is saying a morning prayer and Garner is getting out of bed and beginning to exercise – “in an attempt,” he says, “to keep my aging body functioning as well as it can.”

At 7:30 a.m. EST – 6:30 his time – Herring is settling into his prelate's office, checking his calendar, email and voice-mail, and following up on the previous day's work.

A GOOD DAY WITH A FINE ENDING

From the perspective of the Eastern time zone, the day continues to play out like this from abbey to abbey: a shared rhythm marking the hours to a common beat of prayer and ministry that characterizes the order in the 21st century just as it did in the 12th.



The **Rev. Andrew Ciferni '64**, director emeritus of the Center for Norbertine Studies on campus, shares the beauty of The St. John's Bible with students in 2018.



The **Rev. Joel Garner '62** proclaims the Gospel at Mass.

7:45 a.m. EST

It's 6:45 a.m. in Vanden Branden's world. He's getting up, showering and brushing his teeth.

8 a.m. EST

Vanden Branden is praying the Office of Readings, imbibing the words of scripture day by day.

8:30 a.m. EST

It's 7:30 for Herring. He's praying the rosary and Office of Readings in the chapel or walking outside.

Vanden Branden is singing Lauds with his community. Psalm 57 sticks with him: “My heart is ready, O God; my heart is ready. I will sing, I will sing your praise. Awake my soul, awake, lyre and harp, I will awake the dawn.”

9 a.m. EST

Vanden Branden, for whom it's now 8 o'clock, eats breakfast. His usual: a bowl of oatmeal with a large spoonful of creamy peanut butter mixed in, two pieces of wheat toast, a hardboiled egg. And, of course, coffee.

Garner goes to morning prayer followed by the Eucharist, then eats breakfast: It is still 7 a.m. for him.

Herring, for whom the time is 8 a.m., goes to chapel for Community Morning.

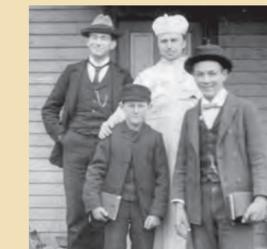
1121

The first Norbertines profess their solemn vows at Prémontré, in northern France.



1582

The church declares Norbert of Xanten a saint.



1893

Berne Abbey, in Holland, sends a young priest, the **Rev. Bernard Pennings**, to the United States where he would found a priory, schools and a college.

THE NORBERTINE ORDER
1121 ✦ 900 ✦ 2021
YEARS

ST. NORBERT
COLLEGE

2021

St. Norbert College joins with Norbertines around the world in celebrating the order's 900th Jubilee.



9:30 am. EST

In Albuquerque, where the time is only 7:30 a.m., it's now Morning Prayer.

Vanden Branden arrives in his office and chats with his assistant about the day.

10 a.m. EST

Herring goes back to the office.

Vanden Branden meets with the communication manager to discuss an upcoming release of the abbey magazine. They make final decisions on suggestions for the layout editor.

Later, Vanden Branden meets with the abbot to talk about immediate needs in the community. One of their members is going in for surgery soon, so they work out the details for a celebration of the Anointing of the Sick during Vespers the evening before.

11:30 a.m. EST

Herring goes to chapel for Community Mass.

12 p.m. EST

Ciferni is at Noon Prayer.

Herring is going to the chapel for Community Angelus and Midday Prayer. Then comes lunch.

1:00 p.m. EST

It's noon for Vanden Branden. Time for a nap.

Gries is preparing a homily for the weekend.

Baer is praying.



4:30 p.m. EST

Ciferni says Vespers.

5 p.m. EST

For Herring, it's time to go to the chapel for Community Evening Prayer. Then comes dinner.

7:30 p.m. EST

In Albuquerque, where it's 5:30, the time has come for Vespers.

9 p.m. EST

After Vespers and dinner, Garner spends time in his office and watches "a little news and sports."

Herring says a private night prayer and goes to bed.

1 a.m. EST

Garner goes to bed.

How will the day end for Gries?

He has a one-word answer: "Fine." ♣



Our photos illustrate the daily round and common life of U.S. Norbertines, living out their vows as contemplatives in action at Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey (top), St. Michael's Abbey (above and below), St. Norbert Abbey (opposite), and at Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey, Bethlehem Priory of St. Joseph, Immaculate Conception Priory ("Bayview") and Daylesford Abbey (page 25).



FIND OUT MORE

 A jubilee series of articles portraying the Norbertine order in 2021; an online course about Norbert of Xanten and the order he founded; the history of an order unfolds; and a personal pilgrimage to an encounter with a saint: There's plenty more to discover at snc.edu/magazine.



ENCOUNTERING AN ABBEY

The **Rev. Jim Neilson '88** (Art) serves as special assistant to the president for mission integration. Students in his Art 215: Sacred Art & Architecture class joined him at his St. Norbert Abbey home for a visit to the labyrinth – based on the labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral – in the abbey grounds.

Mission – Catholic, Norbertine, Liberal Arts – is one of the four priorities of Support What Matters, a fund-raising campaign in honor of St. Norbert College's 125th birthday in 2023. The campaign focuses on the things that differentiate an education at St. Norbert College, the only Norbertine institute of higher education in the world.

Short takes on a long history



“I convinced many to give away many of their things and join me in the apostolic way of life. It is not impossible. Many gave up all of their fortune and joined me. ... To the poor I gave everything, even my shoes. (My feet still hurt.)”

– Norbert speaks in “He Walks Through Lightning,” a one-act play on the life of Norbert of Xanten commissioned by St. Norbert Abbey to mark the 900th Jubilee.

FIND OUT MORE



Hand written in ornately scripted German and bound in leather, the 265-year-old book is beautiful to behold. The story inside, however, is full of darkness. Its topic: the trial and execution of a Norbertine nun accused of witchcraft. snc.edu/magazine

NORBERTINES MINISTER TO THE WORLD’S MOST REMOTE PARISH ...

Some 1,500 miles off the coast of South Africa lies the island of Tristan de Cunha. Among its 246 residents are the 42 Catholics who comprise St. Joseph’s Church parish. Abbot Hugh Allan of Chelmsford in England serves as apostolic administrator and, as the voyage to Tristan by fishing trawler from the nearest port takes up to six days, he visits the island just once a year. Weekly communion is offered through advanced planning, and it’s distributed by three descendants of Agnes Smith, who helped establish the Catholic community in 1908.

... AND TO ONE OF THE OLDEST PARISHES IN THE UNITED STATES

The picturesque Church of St. Augustine in the sunbaked Rio Grande Valley lies “at the crossroads of history, culture, and living faith.” Established in 1613, nearly destroyed in the pueblo revolt of 1680 and rebuilt in 1720, the white adobe walls hold more than four centuries of stories and traditions for the people of the Isleta Pueblo. And new stories continue to be written in this living, vibrant community of faith.

In memoriam the Rev. Graham Golden, pastor of St. Augustine’s (1986-2021)

SICKNESS AND STRIFE: YET SANCTITY PREVAILS

History hasn’t always been kind to the Norbertines. Although individual houses have perished, Norbert’s order has survived in the face of the Thirty Years War, the Black Death, the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VII, the French Revolution, Nazism and Communism.

Through times of hardship, 15 saints and blessed of the order have been recognized. They include St. Norbert’s first disciple, Blessed Hugh of Fosse; St. Evermode, another of the original Norbertines; St. Hermann Joseph, the mystic; St. Godfrey of Cappenberg who, after meeting Norbert, was convinced his life was best spent serving God and gave his castle to the order; Blessed Gertrude, whose family dedicated her to God before her birth; Blessed Bronislava, whose devout prayer, meditation on the Passion of Christ, and veneration of the Holy Cross left a deep impression on her contemporaries; and St. Adrian and St. James, who were hanged on account of their loyalty to the Catholic faith.



Norbertines around the world sustain their abbey life and serve their local communities with enterprises like brewing (Grimbergen, in Belgium), wine-making (Sint-Catharinadal, in The Netherlands), an environmental center (Roggenburg, in Germany), sacred art (St. Michael’s, in Silverado, Calif.) ... and puppies! The cloistered Norbertine canonesses of the Bethlehem Priory of St. Joseph (Tehachapi, Calif.) continue to grow their dog-breeding program by offering AKC English Labradors to selected individuals. The canonesses are busy, even outside their primary work of prayer: They also sew vestments, and they make jam, cheese, honey and biscotti from their gardens. ✚



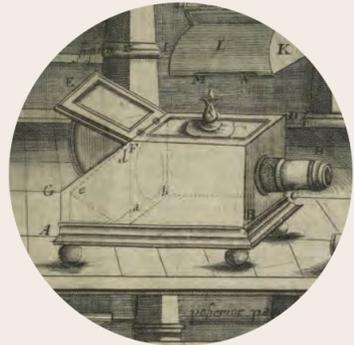
Did you know that ...

- On the Feast of St. Michael, the sun sets on the high altar at the new church of St. Michael’s Abbey in California.
- Norbert of Xanten appears on postage stamps issued by two countries, Germany and Belgium.
- One in every five homeless men in Philadelphia have been served by the Bethesda Project, a ministry of Daylesford Abbey in Pennsylvania.
- Norbertines are more formally known as Premonstratensians, or Canons Regular of Prémontré. The abbey at Prémontré was Norbert’s first foundation.
- President Joe Biden was educated at a Norbertine high school.
- A holy relic of Norbert typically housed in the crypt of St. Norbert Abbey is venerated in the sanctuary of the abbey church during this anniversary year.
- Geras Abbey, dedicated to St. Lawrence, has a fire-engine museum.
- Immaculate Conception Priory (“Bayview”) in Middletown, Del., is the oldest daughter house of St. Norbert Abbey and was also founded by Abbot Bernard Pennings.
- A special work to celebrate the 900th has been commissioned by the college from royal composer Paul Mealor and will be performed at SNC this November.

FIND OUT MORE

A brief video account, narrated by **Carol (Sessler) Bruess ’90**, introduces Norbert and his work as reforming priest, peacemaker and champion of the Eucharist. snc.edu/magazine

Notable Norbertines



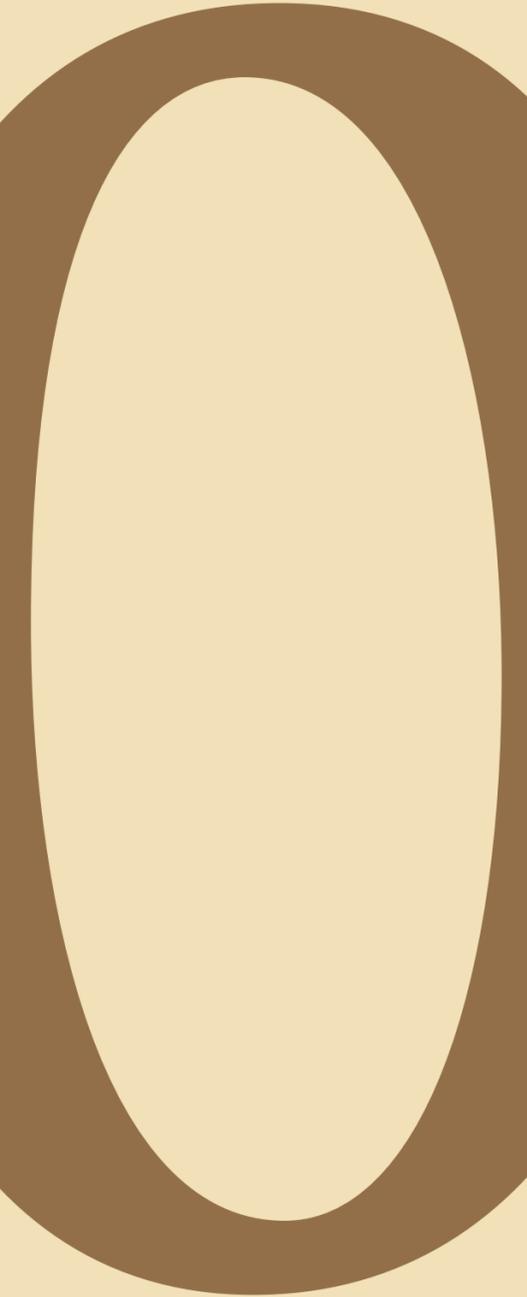
Johann Zahn (1631-1707) was the first to envision a lens cover and a portable camera, roughly 150 years before the first photograph.

Prokop Diviš (1698-1765) studied electricity and invented a lightning rod around the same time as Benjamin Franklin.

Charles-Hyacinthe Hugo (1667-1739) wrote an important history of the French province of Lorraine.

Werenfried van Straaten (1913-2003) led efforts to help German refugees after World War II and to aid persecuted Catholics in Eastern Europe.

Robert Cornell (1919-2009), second of only two Roman Catholic priests to serve as a voting representative, served as Democratic U.S. Congressman from Wisconsin 1975-1979.



“The order’s survival for 900 years means that we have been faithful to our charism. As St. Norbert promised, if we did three things, our order would last until the coming of Christ: cleanliness around the altar, correction of faults, and care for the poor.”
 – Prior Chrysostom Baer of St. Michael’s Abbey



Alumni

OF ST. NORBERT COLLEGE

GOOD TO KNOW

Entrepreneur alums share a connection



■ St. Norbert’s Alumni-Owned Businesses Network includes, to date, businesses in 27 U.S. states as well as in Canada and the Czech Republic.

■ The top three fields represented include food and beverage services, professional services, and marketing and advertising.

■ Business owners already profiled on snc.edu/alumni/directory include:

Pam Foti '89: Vesta Senior Network, “a realty company for long-term care.”

Jason Neef '93: Kicksite, developers of software that makes the lives of martial arts school owners easier.

Christine Herman '97: Willow Clothing Co., makers of cute casual clothing at affordable prices.

Know an alumni-owned business you would like to see listed on the network? Contact alumni@snc.edu.



Alex (DuBois) VandeHei '12 is founder and CEO of HeiPro Digital in Green Bay.

A digital hub is giving alumni entrepreneurs the chance to connect with their communities, locally and globally. There are currently more than 270 businesses in the new Alumni-Owned Businesses Network with some 400 more in the works.

“Some of these alums have stories and businesses that will knock your socks off,” says **Dee Geurts-Bengston** (College Advancement), architect of the network. She and her team have personally reached out to all 600-odd SNC entrepreneurs in hopes of bringing the owners together and showcasing their successes and services. Local alumni are invited to meet in person, while out-of-state and out-of-country alumni are welcomed virtually.

Launched in December, the network, at snc.edu/alumni/directory, is already seeing some of the highest traffic on the college website. The listings represent 30 plus different fields and are searchable by owner, type of service and location.

In addition to the core directory, a spotlight feature focuses on a different alum every six weeks to offer a deeper dive into their journey and current business.

With every spotlight, more alumni reach out to have their story told.

Geurts-Bengston says that the network is a way for the college to stay in touch with alumni and “offer a service free of charge. It’s for alums to connect and support each other. I just have a lot of fun doing it. ... Once people knew about it and see maybe a friend they roomed with or in a club with, it could be a great thing, to connect.”

It’s a way for alums to grow their business, also: If there’s a service one owner needs, they may choose to buy it from another.

Next on the docket are window clings and digital stickers that alumni owners can place in their storefront windows and on their websites. Geurts-Bengston gets giddy thinking of spotting these at businesses scattered across the country, and around the world: “Imagine someone on vacation, and they say, ‘Oh my gosh, I graduated from there!’ ”

See the directory of alumni-owned businesses at snc.edu/alumni/directory.

**Births/
Adoptions**



A little Christmas magic

Breakfast With Santa makes its dashing return to campus, in what has been a joyous tradition for SNC families since 2005. The event, like so many others, went virtual in 2020 in the form of a video message for families from the man in red himself. Santa also sent personalized videos to families who made a \$50 donation to the St. Norbert Fund. This year, while the alumni office is excited to welcome guests back to campus for the event, the virtual options are back again for SNC families scattered across the globe.

“Breakfast With Santa is a magical time,” says **Chris Betcher** (Alumni & Parent Relations). “I love the excitement the children have as they arrive. ... I am honored to see families each year, and watch the children get older and families grow.”

Traditionally, 40 or so families dressed in their Christmas finery encounter a seasonally decked hallway and staircase. The decor sets the scene as they climb to the Michels Ballroom for a festive event complete with breakfast buffet, balloon artists and craft tables – and with student alumni ambassadors at hand to help guests make holiday decorations.

But of course, the grandest moment is when Santa and his elf (a garbed-up student staffer) greets the families, takes photos and lends his lap for Christmas wishes. “There is nothing like the joy on the children, parents and grandparents faces on his arrival,” says Betcher.

Breakfast With Santa is held on the first Saturday of December and sells out almost immediately.

2002 Nikki (Young) and **John Scully**, Alexandria, Va., a son, Thomas Kolbe, July 27, 2020. Thomas joins siblings Jack, 9, Nora, 7, and Sarah, 4.

2005 Betsy (Fryda) and **Nathan Radue**, Menomonee Falls, Wis., a daughter, Grace, Feb. 6, 2020.

2005 Stephanie (Birk) and **Duncan Sattler**, a son, Theodore Axel, Aug. 30, 2020.

2005 Christopher and **Andrew Graham-Capelle**, Milwaukee, a son, August. Richard, Sept. 2, 2020. He joins sister Hensley.

2006 Amy Sowinski and **Christopher Ertz**, Phoenix, Ariz., a son, Holden Henry, Sept. 12, 2020.

2006 Melinda (Morella) and **Tony Olson**, De Pere, a son, Giovanni James, Nov. 27, 2020.

2007 Katie (MacNeish) and **Ryan Scheelk**, De Pere, a son, Ian, Aug. 8, 2020. He joins sister Audrey, 5.

2007 Don and **Nicole Norwick**, Volo, Ill., a son, Donald Danger, Dec. 16, 2020. He joins sister Eleanor, 3.

2008 Margaret (George) and **Steve Voller**, Des Plaines, Ill., a daughter, Nora, Oct. 12, 2020.

2009 Dan and **Lisa Brunelli**, Mount Prospect, Ill., a son, Benjamin James, Aug. 21, 2020.

2009 Jeremy and **Melody Munoz**, San Antonio, Texas, a son, Casey, Aug. 24, 2020.

2009 Tonya (Tremi) and **Brian Ouradnik**, Green Bay, a son, Leo, Aug. 27, 2020. Leo joins brothers Ethan, 4, and Jackson, 2.

2009 Jenna (Heinrich) and **Mike Wright '09**, Warrenville, Ill., a daughter, Jillian Judith, Nov. 12, 2020. Jillian joins brother Carter, 4.

2009 Mallory (Ford) and **Chris Babel**, Chicago, a son, Ford Christopher, Dec. 18, 2020. Ford joins sisters Clementine, 3, and Adelaide, 2.

2009 Anthony and **Lindsey Cacciatore**, Columbus, Ohio, a daughter, Margot Reese, Jan. 7, 2021.

2009 Justin and **Kari Krueger**, Menasha, Wis., a daughter, Elaina Marie, Jan. 22, 2021.

2010 Amy (Perszyk) and **Devin Sura**, New Berlin, Wis., a daughter, Riley, Nov. 19, 2019.

2010 Jenna (Metelak) and **George Hanzal**, Edina, Minn., a daughter, Kjerstin Lenore, Jan. 7, 2021.

2010 Ja Chaiyaphruk and **Clarke Baldwin '10**, De Pere, a son, Nestor, Feb. 4, 2021.

2010 Kathryn (Spadoni) and **Seth Stelpflug**, Waukesha, Wis., a daughter, Maeve Kathleen, March 16, 2021.

2011 Mike and **Nicole Burmesch**, Port Washington, Wis., a son, Beckham, Jan. 19, 2020. He joins sister Ivy, 3.

2011 Erica (Thielen) and **Jacob Van Dyke '11**, De Pere, a son, Theodore, May 5, 2020.

2011 Nicholas and **Melissa Miramontes**,

Machesney Park, Ill., a daughter, Olivia, Nov. 11, 2020.

2011 Anna (Noreus) and **Erik Hoefner**, Green Bay, a daughter, Olivia, Dec. 31, 2020.

2011 Mary (Jung) and **Justin Fillinger '10**, Milwaukee, a daughter, Rosalind Mae, Jan. 1, 2021.

2011 Cecilia (Knaus) and **Michael Marx**, Eldorado, Wis., a son, Everett, Feb. 15, 2021.

2011 David and **Jess Hesson**, Neenah, Wis., twin sons, Asher and Beau, March 1, 2021.

2012 Kelly (Shaws) and **Luke Wissbroecker '10**, Elmhurst, Ill., a boy, Nolan, Oct. 1, 2020. Nolan joins brother Wilkie, 2.

2012 Alyssa (Yakel) and **Ross Kraszewski**, Suamico, Wis., a son, Otto Antone, Oct. 22, 2020. Otto joins an older sister.

2012 Leah (Korth) and **Jacob Szapa '12**, Altoona, Wis., a daughter, Scarlet, Jan. 17, 2021. Scarlet joins brothers Felix and Soren, 5.

2012 Joanna (Holzhaeuser) and **Travis Slattery**, Stevens Point, Wis., twin sons, William Lloyd and Francis Stephen, March 9, 2021. The boys join sister Josephine, 3.

2013 Carolyn (Horst) and **Daniel Szafranek**, Prairie du Sac, Wis., a son, Casper, born April 3, 2020.

2013 Brittany (Phillips) and **Sam Mason '13**, Green Bay, a daughter, Bella Mason, Dec. 6, 2020.

2014 Kendall (Tadych) and **Chase LaFave**, Fort Wayne, Ind., a son, Hudson, Sept. 22, 2020.

2014 Lydia (Van Schyndel) and **Hayden Davison**, Green Bay, a daughter, Aletheia Laurel, Jan. 3, 2021.

2014 Amanda (Kiger) and **Jeff Hayes**, De Pere, a daughter, Scarlett Jeanne, Jan. 8, 2021. Scarlett joins an older sister.

2014 Rachel (Maala) and **Matthew Lensmire**, Cleveland, Wis., a son, John, March 2, 2021.

2015 Paige (Bayer) and **Damon Johnson**, Leander, Texas, a daughter, Lauren Adell, born Dec. 2020.

2015 Colleen (Smith) and **Sean Hallfrisch '15**, Appleton, Wis., a son, Henry, March 9, 2021.

2016 Elizabeth (Pfantz) and **Samuel Hokamp**, New Franken, Wis., a daughter, Tessa Sarah Clare, July 21, 2020. She joins brother James.

2016 Brooke (Loritz) and **Connor Bradshaw '16**, Appleton, Wis., a daughter, Charli Brooklyn, Oct. 20, 2020.

2016 Avery (Kohrell) and **Colin Leidall**, Elkhart Lake, Wis., a son, Grant, Oct. 22, 2020.

2016 Erin (Tichacek) and **Bob Hofacker**, Appleton, Wis., a son, Benjamin George, Dec. 25, 2020.

2016 Cassie (Terrien) and **Reed Shallue '17**, Green Bay, a son, Jay Thomas, Jan. 4, 2021.

2016 Courtney (Hiers) and **Kyle Morris**, Milton, Wis., a daughter, Isabelle, Jan. 5, 2021.

2016 Marissa (Vyskocil) and **Craig Calzavara**, Phillips, Wis., a son, Jaxon, Jan. 14, 2021.

2017 David and **Hanna Holzer**, Wauwatosa, Wis., a daughter, Ella Louise, Oct. 2, 2020.

Marriages

1999 Trevor Peterson and **Paloma McDonnell**, Sept. 26, 2020. They live in Chicago.

2003 Krista Perine and **Paul Gies**, June 28, 2020. They live in Las Vegas.

2005 Trina Nicholson and **Adam Raczka**, July 3, 2020. They live in Grand Blanc, Mich.

2006 Kathleen Fayard and **Jesus Pelayo**, April 18, 2020. They live in Countryside, Ill.

2008 Maggie VerBrugge and **Daniel Leveritt**, Oct. 2, 2020. They live in Brookfield, Wis.

2009 Gina Bortel and **Will Dolenshek**, Nov. 14, 2020. They live in Milwaukee.

2012 Nicole Zoch and **Cody Sinkula**, Jan. 20, 2020. They live in Green Bay.

2012 Derek Harrington and **Katie Radtke**, Feb. 1, 2020. They live in Milwaukee.

2012 Janessa Brickner and **Tom Ressa**, Feb. 14, 2021. They live in Wausau, Wis.

2013 Hannah Loppnow and **Matt Hadley**, Oct. 24, 2020. They live in Milwaukee.

2013 Dayna Nell and **Andrew Pekarek**, Nov. 6, 2020. They live in Algoma, Wis.

2014 Kate Schabach and **Chris Dulmes '11**, June 27, 2020. They live in Antigo, Wis.

2014 Rebecca Goodman and **Phillip Gries '15**, July 24, 2020. They live in Milwaukee.

2015 Jessica Fohn and **Kamil Orzulak**, Sept. 26, 2020. They live in Aurora, Colo.

2015 Haley Bray and **Scott Suick '15**, Jan. 1, 2021. They live in Appleton, Wis.

2016 Caryn Bondi and **Joshua Hipke**, May 2, 2020. They live in Sheboygan, Wis.

2016 Jennifer Ward and **Mike Myren '14**, Sept. 20, 2020. They live in Franklin, Wis.

2016 Annmarie Riva and **Michael Starzec**, Oct. 10, 2020. They live in Kenosha, Wis.

2017 Ruby Robles and **Rodolfo Hernandez**, Oct. 10, 2020. They live in Green Bay.

2018 Christina Greco '18 and **Dan Burke '16**, July 1, 2020. They live in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Deaths

1941 John Pritchard, of Milwaukee, died April 14, 2020, at the age of 96. He served in the Army Air Corps in WWII and was awarded the Purple Heart. He was executive creative director and senior vice president at Cramer-Krasselt Advertising in Milwaukee. He is survived by six children.

1946 Thomas Basche, of De Pere, died April 6, 2021,

at the age of 98. He worked for the Brown County (Wis.) Welfare Department as a caseworker in public assistance, a juvenile court probation officer and later as a family counselor in the Family Court Commissioner Office. He also served as deputy welfare director in civil defense and special deputy in the sheriff's department and acted as the welfare department's liaison to the Hmong community. He held several other jobs, including as security supervisor of the Green Bay Packers personnel and as an usher at old City Stadium. He is survived by four children.

1948 Vince Zehren, of Green Bay, died Nov. 5, 2020, at the age of 96. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He worked for Schreiber Foods Inc. as vice president of industrial affairs and as a member of the board of directors. He authored a book called “Process Cheese.” He is survived by six children.

1948 Morris Neuville, of Waupaca, Wis., died Dec. 6, 2020, at the age of 92. He was president of Ansul Chemical Co. in Marinette, Wis., and he later purchased Neuville Motors and opened a clothing store. He is survived by six children, including **Karen Bretch '73**.

1950 Jack Kaster, of Savannah, Ga., died Sept. 8, 2020, at the age of 91. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was awarded the Bronze Star. He spent 33 years working as a senior executive for IBM. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and six children.

1951 Donald Johnson, of Green

Bay, died Sept. 27, 2020, at the age of 91. He spent 30 years as a salesman for Marathon Oil. He is survived by his wife, Bernice, and two children.

1951 Merlin Romenesko, of Walworth, Wis., died Oct. 11, 2020, at the age of 90. He served in the U.S. Air Force and later worked as a teacher. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary, and 10 children, including **Mary Smrecek '73** and **Tim '79**.

1951 Emmet Bertrand, of Green Bay, died Nov. 9, 2020, at the age of 97. He worked for the Brown County Highway Department for 32 years; County Highway EB is lettered after his initials. He is survived by two children.

1952 Don Roche, of Portland, Ore., died Oct. 31, 2020, at the age of 94. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and later worked as a sporting goods salesman. He is survived by two children.

1953 Bernard Olejniczak, of Oshkosh, Wis., died June 21, 2020, at the age of 89. He taught Latin, French and journalism at Pulaski (Wis.) H.S., where he established The Pulaski News, the state's first community and school newspaper. He served as principal at Pulaski elementary schools and later taught computer courses at the UW Oshkosh College of Education & Human Services. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and four children.

1953 Norbert Blohowiak, of Waco, Texas, died Sept. 27, 2020, at the age of 92. He served in the U.S. Army Air Forces. He taught and managed

Jason Berken '95



Photo courtesy Mike Wiesman

Is in tune with Bob Dylan

Musical passions and a carefully trained ear take Jason Berken '95 on tour with the greatest songwriter of our time.

Plugging along I've been in the music business since 2001, working for several artists, ensuring their guitars and instruments are performance ready. For the last nine years, I've been a part of Bob Dylan's crew.

Man of many strings Although my main focus is guitars, I tune and prep a variety of instruments, including violas, violins, steel pedals and even pianos. The tricky part is knowing how the artist plays. Do they typically press down harder on the strings, pluck a specific string more often, wear down parts of the guitar faster? That's what we pay attention to.

Behind the curtain My ears are everything. I need to decide if I should retune, restring or reset an instrument. It's all about being aware. Is it humid? Has it rained? Is it colder than normal because of the air conditioning? All of these things can affect how a guitar, violin, etc. plays, but the best crews fix issues that could pop up during the show before it even begins.

World traveler A wonderful perk that comes with my job is the places, people and cultures I get to experience up close. Dylan's tour has taken me across the U.S., to Spain and France, and even as far as Japan. My favorite spots usually have good local food, a warm beach and cool, blue waters for relaxing between concerts.

ranch operations at the Methodist Children's Home. He later oversaw a large dairy farm and then opened his own before working in agricultural supply distribution. He is survived by three children.

1953 Bruce Erickson, of Kohler, Wis., died Dec. 11, 2020, at the age of 88. He served in the U.S. Army and retired from service with the rank of first lieutenant. He worked as a counselor in the Kohler school district for 24 years. He also coached high-school basketball and baseball. He is survived by four children.

1955 Bill Eastman, of Green Bay, died Sept. 12, 2020, at the age of 87. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked at Prudential Insurance Co. before retiring and becoming the

pro-shop manager at Woodside Golf Club. He is survived by his wife, Doris, and six children.

1955 Maj. Richard Faucett, of Marinette, Wis., died Nov. 11, 2020, at the age of 88. He was a member of the Army Reserves for 28 years. He worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a forester and land agent. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and five children.

1955 Lowell Georgia, of Arvada, Colo., died Feb. 24, 2021, at the age of 87. See story on page 31.

1955 Gerald Vande Hei, of Sun Prairie, Wis., died March 10, 2021, at the age of 88. He spent his career working for the Forestry Division of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He is survived by his

wife, Patricia, and three children.

1955 Joyce (Neuville) Eichinger, of Prescott, Ariz., died March 18, 2021, at the age of 96. She worked as a teacher, counselor and school psychologist in Green Bay schools for more than 30 years. She is survived by three children.

1956 Robert Coyle, of Rochester, Mich., died June 25, 2020, at the age of 91. He served in the Korean War. He was a child welfare worker and supervisor and worked for Catholic Relief Services. He is survived by his wife, Mary Therese, and five children.

1956 George Desmarais, of South Bend, Ind., died Nov. 3, 2020, at the age of 87. He served in the U.S. Army, later working as a hospital administrator

for Memorial and Scheurer Hospitals. He is survived by his wife, Janice, and four children.

1956 Ruth (Platten) Huguet, of Green Bay, died Nov. 20, 2020, at the age of 85. She sang in several choirs, participated in Interfaith Seamen's Ministry and was a referee for the Green Bay Kickers Soccer Club. She is survived by seven children.

1957 Gene Bilotti, of Kenosha, Wis., died Dec. 23, 2020, at the age of 87. He taught at Wilmot (Wis.) H.S. before spending 31 years as an English professor at Gateway Technical College. He later taught Spanish literature at Carthage College and at Dominican College in Racine, Wis.; proofread manuscripts for Random House Books;

and was a longtime supervisor of the county board of Kenosha. He is survived by his wife, Arlene, and one child.

1957 Joseph Poehlmann, of Schaumburg, Ill., died Feb. 17, 2021, at the age of 87. He worked for Bell Telephone Companies for more than 45 years. He is survived by his wife, Lois, and four children.

1958 Rolland Graf, of Union Grove, Wis., died Aug. 9, 2020, at the age of 84. He served in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of captain. He taught at Berlin (Wis.) H.S. and Elcho (Wis.) H.S. before becoming a school counselor at Union Grove (Wis.) H.S. He also worked as an educator and administrator at Racine/Kenosha Technical Institute. He is survived by his wife, **Clare (Gilson) '59**, and four children.

1959 Darrell Mahlik, of Sun Lakes, Ariz., died Aug. 4, 2019, at the age of 81. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked for the U.S. Air Force before working on the Viking Mars Lander for NASA, and later for the U.S. Department of Interior. He is survived by two children.

1959 Ken Myers, of Kimberly, Wis., died May 11, 2020, at the age of 89. He served in the U.S. Navy in an anti-submarine squadron. He worked at Hamilton Manufacturing Co. and later at Badger Northland Inc., where he became president. He served on the board of directors at Hamilton and the Equipment Manufacturers Institute. He is survived by his wife, Jeriene, and four children.

1959 Kenan Virlee, of Mount Vernon, Iowa, died Nov. 8, 2020, at

the age of 85. He taught Russian, Latin and French at Prémontre H.S. in Green Bay, where he also served as an assistant principal and athletic director. He later taught and started a Russian language program at Marion (Iowa) H.S. He is survived by his wife, Gladys, and one child.

1959 Gerald "Jerry" Vandenberg, of Overland Park, Kan., died Jan. 22, 2021, at the age of 84. He established his own clinical and forensic psychology practice in the Kansas City area. He authored "Court Testimony in Mental Health." He is survived by his wife, Sue, two children and one stepchild.

1959 Richard Lax, of Green Bay, died March 4, 2021, at the age of 83. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked for Land O'Lakes for 37 years and volunteered at the Christian Outreach Food Pantry after retirement. He is survived by his wife, Linda, and five children.

1959 Bill Albers, of De Pere, died May 12, 2021, at the age of 83. He was a sales agent at American Family Insurance for over 40 years and was active in the Kiwanis Club of De Pere for over 50 years, eventually serving as president. He is survived by five children.

1960 James Draeger, of Deerbrook, Wis., died June 7, 2020, at the age of 81. He worked at Draeger Oil in Antigo, Wis., where he expanded the company from a single full-service gas station to a company with 17 stores, supplying 81 locations across Wisconsin and Michigan. He is survived by his wife,

What's in a planturn?



"I need hardwood and I use two types in each piece – it looks more intentional. Walnut, sycamore and maple are my favorites. Sycamore is beautiful; the colours range from pale orange to peachy and the grain can be so delicate, like lace.

"I get my wood in two places: a traditional lumber yard where it's all FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified, plus rescued wood from trees that have been cleared or are diseased and would be going to the wood-chipper or landfill. I love using that wood but it's not a consistent source so I buy as much as I can when it's available."

The top section holds a china sake cup or a whiskey tasting glass for the plant. "It took me a long time to find the right pieces that leave the plant some room but fit into the urn." A muslin bag "like a shroud" holds the cremains in the bottom section.

Rare earth magnets hold the structure together. "You can knock it over and it'll be fine."



Life from death: planturns help heal

Of her career-defining move into cremains preservation C.C. Boyce '95 says, "I had to take a deep dive into death."

Boyce makes planturns – likely the only maker – which place the dead beneath the living. Ashes are kept in the hollow base of a hardwood planter, while the top section houses a plant. "You can keep your loved one close, but you don't have to feel sad every time you look at the planter."

Boyce grew up near the Wisconsin/Illinois border, exploring her engineer father's woodwork shop in the basement, and arrived at St. Norbert to major in communications, media and theatre with a full toolbox. "It was natural to me to go and make things," she says.

A first career as an actor took her to Hollywood in the late 1990s. "I did well in commercials and voiceover, but after the commercial actors' strike of 2000 a lot of work went non-union." She became a DIY blogger, went back to school to study woodwork and cabinet making and sold restaurant tables, window seats and fitted cupboards. Then her traditional hardwood planters were featured in top interiors magazines and her workshop appeared in Apartment Therapy. She now has a new workshop in the Fashion District of downtown LA.

The first planturn was created in 2018, in response to a customer's request. "They wanted to disperse a family member's ashes, so I designed something for them." When she put the result on Instagram, she had a huge response from pet morticians – and from a death doula (someone who prepares individuals and families for the end of life) who became an important resource.

"I spent a year on research, visiting crematoria, talking to everyone in the death care industry, developing prototypes." After raising Kickstarter funds, she was in full production in time for the pandemic boom. "I lost my second job in a restaurant when Covid hit, but I had some savings, so I thought, 'it's all or nothing.'"

Her reach is now global. "Australia is particularly interested at the moment, but they are selling everywhere." She doesn't envisage her business becoming an empire. "I would never hand this over to anyone else. I don't want to be a mogul."

And she's not making a planturn for herself, she's got something else in mind: "I want my remains to go to a body farm to contribute to studies on the effects of decomposition. You are helping solve crimes, and I'm a true crime nut."

You can view her planturns and other work at boycestudio.com.

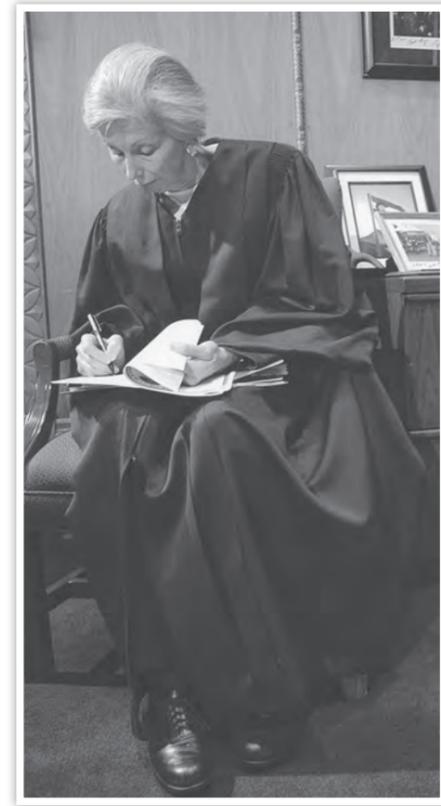
PROCESS



"It takes 2 to 3 hours for a small piece and 4 to 5 hours for medium or large. I do milling and assembly one day, finishing and sanding the next. The small pieces take less time because both pieces are solid. The bottoms of the larger pieces are hollow. I mill the wood, split it down the middle and mill it again so the grain matches, and when I curve the edges it looks solid. The magnets are invisible. It takes longer but that's the difference between something looking OK and looking great."

Connection

"You have to talk them through it. I realised I am well-equipped for this; I've been around death a lot from a young age. Both my parents died of Covid, and I also lost my two senior cats recently. I can somehow empathize with grief without taking it on. And I live and work alone, so it's great to be able to connect with people quite deeply in this way."



Trailblazing justice made her mark

For 23 years, **Mary Mullarkey '65** sat on the Colorado Supreme Court, 12 of them as Chief Justice. She wrote thousands of decisions that will leave their mark, but perhaps her greatest legacy lies beyond the courtroom.

As the second woman appointed to Colorado's highest court, Mullarkey, who died March 31, 2021, at the age of 77, helped normalize the presence of women on the bench. Yet this was not her first pioneering move; after graduating from St. Norbert College with a degree in mathematics, she moved on to Harvard Law School where she was one of a handful of women in her class.

She found her way to Denver and was appointed to the state supreme court in 1987, becoming chief justice in 1998. With her calm, compassionate demeanor, Mullarkey went to great lengths to ensure the legal system worked for everyone. She fought for access to interpreters throughout the court system, and she pushed for childcare in courthouses.

Living her last years with multiple sclerosis, Mullarkey put her efforts toward advocating for the development and accessibility of better treatment options. She was honored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society with its MS Achievement Award.

Mullarkey is survived by her husband, Tom Korson, and their son, Andrew.

Mary Ellen, and five children.

1960 Gene Gates, of Two Rivers, Wis. and Green Valley, Ariz., died Dec. 27, 2020, at the age of 85. He served in the U.S. Army. He was the owner and manager of several businesses, including The Penguin Drive Inn restaurant in Manitowoc, Wis., and Gators Tavern and Gates Insurance in Two Rivers. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou, and five children.

1960 Ronald Paradeis, of Port Washington, Wis., died April 23, 2021, at the age of 83. He ran his family's oil business for 40 years and was active in his community through Meals on Wheels, the Jaycees and Knights of Columbus. He is survived by two children.

1961 Terence Fanning, of Glendale, Ariz., died April 10, 2020, at the age of 80. He was a casualty claims manager for American Family Insurance in Omaha, Neb. He is survived by his wife, Vicki, and two children.

1961 David Hoslet, of Green Bay, died June 2, 2020, at the age of 86. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He owned and was the CEO of Sun Equipment & Supply Inc. and served 30 years in elected office on the Brown County Board of Supervisors and the Allouez Village Board. He is survived by his wife, Marian, and two children.

1961 Katie (Vander Zanden) Maes, of Mount Pleasant, Wis., died Nov. 10, 2020, at the age of 83. She worked as a nurse in the Racine, Wis., area and later taught in the Health Occupations

Division of Gateway Technical College for 30 years. She is survived by one child.

1961 Patrick Morgan, of Leesburg, Va., died Dec. 1, 2020, at the age of 82. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and he was awarded the Bronze Star with combat V for Valor. He joined the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office and became the head of the white-collar crimes unit and the top assistant to the district attorney. He is survived by one child.

1961 Robert "Don" Skupas, of De Pere, died Jan. 7, 2021, at the age of 91. He served in the National Guard, retiring after 22 years. He worked as an insurance claims adjuster and opened Associated Claim Service in Green Bay. He is survived by his wife, Beth, and three children.

1961 Judy (Redmond) Morgan, of Leesburg, Va., died Jan. 15, 2021, at the age of 81. She began her career as a librarian before moving to the Northern Virginia Community College-Woodbridge Campus, where she was promoted to associate professor. She was later the law library director for the Oklahoma City University School of Law before being promoted to professor of law library science. She is survived by one child.

1962 The Rev. Theodore Antry, of Paoli, Pa., died Dec. 19, 2020, at the age of 81. He taught at St. John Neumann H.S. in Philadelphia and taught a course about the history of the Norbertine order at three abbeys. He is survived by his Norbertine confrères.

1962 Norm Haas, of Green Bay and Peoria, Ariz., died Dec. 23, 2020, at the age of 81. He served in the U.S. Army, later working for Metal Parts Corp. for much of his career. He is survived by his wife, **Ruth Liebmann '64**, and three children, including **Lissa Marth '87** and **Pam Gerstner '92**.

1962 Col. Clayton Vannes, of Tampa, Fla., died Feb. 20, 2021, at the age of 83. He served in the U.S. Army for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Norma, and four children.

1963 Thomas Wall Sr., of Denmark, Wis., died May 28, 2020, at the age of 79. He served in the U.S. Army, later working as a district manager for Red Owl in Milwaukee. After earning his master's degree in business, he joined Greiling Farms, helping to grow it into one of the largest wholesale greenhouses in the U.S. He is survived by his wife, Judy, and three children.

1963 William Schultz, of Appleton, Wis., died June 3, 2020, at the age of 80. He was a teacher and principal in the Appleton public school system. He is survived by his sister.

1963 Bob Strick, of Menasha, Wis., died Dec. 23, 2020, at the age of 84. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He worked as a high-school math teacher before starting his own tax business. He is survived by three children.

1963 Chuck Hartzheim, of Menasha, Wis., died March 27, 2021, at the age of 79. He served in the United States Army as a captain during the Vietnam

Library card

Alumni and parents can check out books and other materials from the Mulva Library on campus, and use other library services too. Users can access the library's suite of online databases and many other internet resources. Ed's, the library cafe, serves a great cup of coffee, too! snc.edu/library.

War. He practiced law for 50 years, including at McCarty, Swetz, & Curry in Kaukauna, Wis. and at Herring Clark Law Firm, Appleton, Wis. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, and five children.

1964 Mary (Jerrett) Skiles, of Green Bay, died April 24, 2020, at the age of 77. She spent her career as a teacher. She is survived by her husband, William, and two children.

1964 Robert Monroe, of Cedarburg, Wis., died July 30, 2020, at the age of 78. He served in the U.S. Peace Corps. He later worked as a teacher, guidance counselor and athletics coach in Germantown and Menomonee Falls, Wis., school districts for more than 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and two children, including **Matthew '94**.

1964 Daniel Remback, of Chicago, died Oct. 25, 2020, at the age of 77. He served as a member of the U.S. National Guard. He worked as a project engineer for Zenith. He is survived by three children.

1964 Theodore Leiterman, of Sheboygan, Wis., died Oct. 26, 2020, at the age of 78. He worked as a hospital administrator at Illinois Masonic Medical Center, the University of Washington Medical Center and Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. He is survived by two children.

1964 Ed Hammen, of Little Chute, Wis., died Dec. 25, 2020, at the age of 77. He worked as a teacher, counselor, coach and principal at several schools in Wisconsin and Texas. He later worked as a prevention specialist at Community Alcoholism Services Inc. and as executive director at ThedaCare Behavioral Health. He is survived by his wife, Ellen, three children and three stepchildren.

1965 Judy De Grave, of Green Bay, died Nov. 18, 2020, at the age of 77. She worked as a teacher at West De Pere H.S. She is survived by six siblings.

1965 Joseph "Larry" Bougie, of Niagara, Wis., died Dec. 1, 2020, at the age of 78. He worked for Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School and in Pembine, Wis., as a math, science and computer teacher. He served as an IT consultant for Giddings & Louis, Humana and Wisconsin Public Service. He is survived by his wife, Chris, and three children, including **Michelle Topetzes '95**.

1965 Ken Maier, of Green Bay, died Dec. 13, 2020, at the age of 77. He coached the St. Norbert College Football offensive line in 1979 and spent four years working at AC Nielson. He spent the rest of his career

as a manager at KI. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, and four children.

1965 Mary Mullarkey, of Denver, Colo., died March 31, 2021, at the age of 77. See page 28.

1966 Paul "Tiger" Dlouhy, of Berlin, Wis., died Aug. 31, 2020, at the age of 76. A businessman and philanthropist, he served as president of Metro Vending Supply from 1984 until he sold the company in 2006. More recently, he operated Paul R. Dlouhy Properties LLC and Dlouhy Rentals LLC. He is survived by a sister, **Elaine Durmer '71**.

1966 Dallas Enz, of Manitowoc, Wis., died Dec. 21, 2020, at the age of 80. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves for six years. He spent his 38-year career as a middle school-band teacher and a football and track and field coach in Mauston, Wis. He is survived by one child.

1967 Robert Lally, of Brookfield, Wis., died Dec. 8, 2020, at the age of 75. He was an attorney and businessman. He is survived by his wife, Jenny, and three children, including **Lisa Lally George '92**, **Tim '94** and **Kevin '98**.

1968 Sister Suzanne Dietz, of Appleton, Wis., died June 3, 2020, at the age of 81. She was a teacher, principal and director of religious education. She provided services to the elderly and developmentally handicapped, and worked in card and prayer shawl ministries. She is survived by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

1968 John "Jack" Riopelle, of Green Bay, died Oct. 17,

2020, at the age of 75. He worked at Procter & Gamble, Shade Information Systems, Central Products and Bowater Inc. He later became part-owner and president of Wisconsin Film & Bag. He is survived by his wife, Ginny, and two children.

1968 Peter Andriacchi, of Madison, Wis., died Nov. 24, 2020, at the age of 74. He served in the U.S. Army and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He is survived by two children.

1969 Suzanna (Cox) Waters Castillo, of Madison, Wis., died April 1, 2020, at the age of 72. She worked in geriatric case management, was a professor and served as the program director and distinguished faculty associate at the University of Wisconsin Division of Continuing Studies. She is survived by her husband, Romeo, one child and one stepchild.

1969 Frank Anastasi, of Philadelphia, died April 29, 2020, at the age of 73. He was ordained into the Norbertine order in 1971, continuing until 1977. He worked as a professor and founded a tutoring service. He is survived by three siblings.

1969 Sister Germaine Kryshak, of Plover, Wis., died Sept. 21, 2020, at the age of 82. She was an elementary school teacher at parochial schools in Milwaukee, Green Bay and La Crosse, Wis. She later worked with the elderly at St. Francis Community Care Organization in Milwaukee before retiring to St. Joseph Motherhouse in Stevens Point, Wis. She is survived by the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis.

1970 Bob Grignon, of De Pere, died Oct. 14,

2020, at the age of 74. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves for eight years. He worked at IBM for more than 30 years, retiring in 2002. He is survived by his wife, Arlene, two children and two stepchildren.

1970 Kay (Williamson) Bougie, of De Pere, died Nov. 17, 2020, at the age of 86. She worked as a bookkeeper at Broadway Chevrolet and spent more than 40 years at Notre Dame Elementary School in De Pere, working as a teacher, librarian and bookkeeper. She is survived by five children, including **Jane Schueller '81**, **Joe '85** and **Mark '93**.

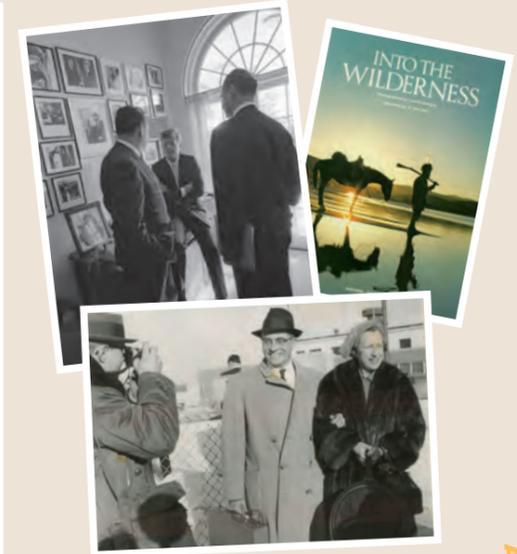
1971 Richard Kamm, of Plymouth, Mass., died Oct. 24, 2020, at the age of 71. He worked in corporate finance and spent 10 years as vice president, treasurer and controller at Blodgett Oven Co. in Burlington, Vt. He is survived by his wife, **Susan Kirwan '71**, and three children.

1971 Larry Hosty, of Berwyn, Ill., died Dec. 25, 2020, at the age of 74. He served six years with the U.S. Army Reserves. He worked as a trader on the Chicago Board Options Exchange and as a funeral director in Dayton, Ohio. He later spent 25 years with the Cook County (Ohio) Purchasing Department. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and two children.

1972 Thomas Quinn, of Jackson, Wis., died Sept. 11, 2019, at the age of 69. He worked for several retail clothing stores, including the former Sonny's for Men store in Milwaukee. He is survived by a sister and several nieces and nephews.

1972 Richard Siegel, of Chicago, died June 27, 2020, at the age

Through the eyes of faith



Lowell Georgia '55, photographer for National Geographic, died Feb. 24, 2021, at the age of 87. Through his work and personal life, he left behind a legacy of adventure, kindness and faith.

Georgia started his career at the Green Bay Press-Gazette while he was still in high school and continued at the paper through his college years. After graduation, Georgia accepted a photography position with the Denver Post and, together with his wife, **Mary Kay (Donovan) '57**, headed to Colorado with his family. When the opportunity arose for him to join the staff of National Geographic, he spent a year in Washington, D.C., with the magazine but decided to continue as a freelancer. Serving as a contract photographer, he shot more than 225 assignments for National Geographic and provided 355 cover images for Oil & Gas Investor Magazine, of which he was a co-founder.

"I do wish every one of you could have seen with your eyes what I have experienced through my camera," wrote Georgia in a 2003 speech to the Serra Club, a Catholic organization that works to foster vocation. "I have seen endless beauty of nature from sunrise to sunsets and all that you can imagine in between,"

Although Georgia traveled the world

photographing people like Vince Lombardi, John F. Kennedy and Frank Sinatra, his focus always remained with his family and six children, his daughters Terry Georgia and Anne Georgia Hansen remember. "He always, when he was on the road, would call home every night, without fail, unless it was impossible, and that wasn't very often," says Mary Kay. Georgia's great-nephew **Tom Georgia '08** remembers his uncle: "He'd done all these great things but was still the most humble, genuine, loving, caring person you'll ever be around. He just wanted to learn more about you." Georgia's faith was a central component of his life. His nephew **Patrick Georgia '78** says: "He said a rosary every day and, at each bead, he said it for someone in his family. I was honored to know that I was part of that daily rosary." Patrick acknowledges that Georgia's passion to share his photography was a personal mission derived from the Norbertine training he received during his education. Terry says: "That's where he learned integrity, was from the Norbertines. He learned critical thinking. And I think that's what made him a good journalist."

Anne says, "I mean, I'm sure everyone thinks their dad is the best, but ours honestly was."

of 70. He worked as a probation officer supervisor at Cook County (Ill.) Juvenile Court. He is survived by his wife, Laurie, and two stepchildren.

1974 Hilary "Sarge" Waukau, of Longmont, Colo., died Feb. 19, 2021, at the age of 73. He was head of security at Norlin Library at the University of Colorado. He was also heavily involved with the University of Colorado's indigenous student community. He is survived by two children.

1976 Burt Angeli, of Kingsford, Mich., died April 9, 2020, at the age of 65. He was a sportswriter with the Daily News of Iron Mountain, Mich. He is survived by his wife, Regina.



Something old, something new, something borrowed, something brewed Fifteen miles down gravel roads on a sprawling corn farm in Fargo, N.D., **Ethan Vanden Plas '21** and **Mariah Kluck '21** were married on July 24, 2021, with full catering, an open bar and stunning decor. It all came courtesy of Busch Beer.

They were one of three grand prize-winning couples given an outdoor wedding on one of Anheuser-Busch's corn or barley farms. For the Vanden Plas, Busch was able to bring them and their loved ones together in a way they had only hoped was possible. "If we would've paid for everything ourselves, we definitely wouldn't have had such luxuries," says Kluck.

Now married, Mariah and Ethan are excited to begin their new lives together as teachers in the Ashwaubenon (Wis.) School District.

1976 Robert Preston, of Fort Myers Beach, Fla., died Sept. 29, 2020, at the age of 65. He owned and worked at Alternative Risk Underwriting insurance company. He is survived by his wife, **Cynthia (Kachan) '79**, and two children.

1979 Margaret (Schneeberger) Cullen, of Glen Ellyn, Ill., died April 28, 2020, at the age of 63. She is survived by her husband, **Michael '79**, and three children.

1979 Dolores Bunker, of Green Bay, died Oct. 15, 2020, at the age of 95. She taught Latin at West De Pere H.S. She is survived by her husband, Gene, and six children, including **Dave '70**, **Tom '72**, **Greg '74**, **Sue O'Keefe '80**, **Joe '81** and **Jane '88**.

1980 Joanne (Lawlis) Schulz, of Plymouth, Wis., died May 7, 2020, at the age of 61. She worked at HSA Bank in Milwaukee before retiring in 2019. She is survived by her husband, **Michael '81**, and two children.

1980 Susan (Davis) Dokey, of New Berlin, Ill., died Nov. 25, 2020, at the age of 62. She coached her son's soccer team and was heavily involved in the lives of her children and grandchildren. She is survived by three children.

1981 Robert Shackelford, of Sarasota, Fla., died July 22, 2020, at the age of 61. He spent time as a player in the NFL and as a football coach for Union College. He later worked as a social studies teacher at Sarasota H.S. and was football coach of the Riverview Rams. He is survived by one child.

1981 Mark Soderlund, of De Pere, died Sept. 5, 2020, at the age of 61. He worked with Chicago Railroad and was the head girls basketball coach for several years at West De Pere H.S. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and four children.

1981 Alexander Kluth, of Milwaukee, died Sept. 21, 2020, at the age of 61. He worked at Beer Capitol Distributing and later worked for Lakefront Brewery. He is survived by his siblings.

1982 Dr. Mark Hennick, of Marshfield, Wis., died Aug. 7, 2020, at the age of 60. He worked in many roles at the Marshfield Clinic, including head of the residency program for internal medicine and, later, hospitalist. He was a faculty member of the University of Wisconsin.

He is survived by his wife, **Kathy (Mursau) '82**, and one child, **Leah '20**.

1984 Scott Berkovitz, of De Pere, died April 2, 2020, at the age of 58. He owned Ridgeway Trailer Co. He is survived by his wife, **Jane (Pasch) '82**, and child.

1984 Winora Orcutt, of Cheshire, Conn., died April 8, 2020, at the age of 57. She worked as a senior disability specialist for Unum Insurance. She is survived by her husband, **Timothy '84**, and three children.

1984 Rick Oswald, of Two Rivers, Wis., died Dec. 23, 2020, at the age of 59. He worked for Lakeshore Chronicle as a sales manager and later was involved in sales at Jones Intercable and worked for US Cellular. He is survived by his wife, Cindy, and five children.

1990 Mark Barber, of Green Bay, died Oct. 27, 2020, at the age of 56. He worked at the Packerland Vet Clinic in Green Bay. He is survived by his mother and two brothers, including **Jeff '82**.

1995 Michael Doyle, of Menomonee Falls, Wis., died Aug. 1, 2020, at the age of 46. He worked at Liberty Mutual and West Bend Mutual Insurance for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, **Katie (Hauert) '96**, and two children.

1995 Dave Schmitz, of Pleasant Prairie, Wis., died Sept. 5, 2020, at the age of 47. He owned and managed Highway C Service Outdoor Power Equipment with his father and brother. He is survived by his wife, Lissa, and three children.

2002 Heather (Miller) Nooyen, of Amherst,

Wis., died Jan. 14, 2021, at the age of 40. She worked as an internal auditor for Sentry Insurance Co. in Stevens Point, Wis. and was a coach for the Amherst volleyball team. She is survived by her husband, Tyler, and two children.

2004 Stephanie Mullen, of Chicago, died May 7, 2021, at the age of 38. She earned a master's degree and worked as an early childhood educator for over 16 years. She is survived by her mother and sister.

2007 Emily Kotecki, of West Bend, Wis., died Nov. 11, 2020, at the age of 36. She worked at an orphanage in Kenya before becoming a youth counselor and case manager at the Washington County Youth Treatment Center. She served as a psychiatric therapist at the Dodge County (Wis.) Human Services & Health Department, a psychotherapist for Acacia Mental Health and Cedar Lake Counseling. She is survived by her mother and sister.

2017 Michelle Vosters, of Appleton, Wis., died June 18, 2020, at the age of 59. She worked as a teacher before pursuing her master's degree and becoming principal of St. Rose St. Mary's School in Clintonville, Wis. She is survived by her husband, Vic, and five children.

■ Obituary notices for those of our alumni we have lost since spring 2021 are posted online at snc.edu/magazine/memorial and will run in full in our next print issue. Deaths of which we have learned include:

Reginald Saner '50, died April 19, 2021. **Myron "Mike"**

Mommaerts '51, died May 1, 2021. **Robert Gille '51**, died June 10, 2021. **Michael Stoffel '52**, died June 18, 2021. **Charles Gardon '54**, died May 30, 2021. **Dr. Philip Bouessa '56**, died June 29, 2021. **George Motiff '57**, died May 15, 2021. **Myron "Mike" Hauser '57**, died July 25, 2021. **Bob Daun '58**, died June 16, 2021. **Thomas Quevillon '59**, died June 1, 2021. **Ken Wall '61**, died April 8, 2021. **Thomas Vandelist '61**, died April 26, 2021. **Michael Monfils '61**, died May 11, 2021. **Francis Junio '61**, died July 30, 2021. **Penny (Paige) Geisler '63**, died June 21, 2021. **David Gagermeier '65**, died June 2, 2021. **Mary (Reinhart) Schall '65**, died Aug. 7, 2021. **John Hickey '67**, died May 2, 2021. **Mary (Berigan) Rogers '67**, died May 4, 2021. **Dianne (Stark) Henke '71**, died April 2, 2021. **William Donovan '71**, died April 3, 2021. **Sister Rose Marie Buscemi '75**, died May 6, 2021. **Mary Grosch '77**, died April 7, 2021. **Maurice Washington '77**, died June 18, 2021. **Bill Gilles '90**, died June 5, 2021.

Class Notes

1963 Anne Egan was a featured artist in the Lobby Gallery's summer exhibition in Door County, Wis.

1973 William Brash has been appointed as chief judge of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

1973 Bob Ross has been selected as a 2020 Wisconsin Super Lawyer in Estate Planning and Probate. Fewer than five percent of attorneys earn the

accolade each year. Super Lawyers is a service that rates attorneys in 70-plus practice areas who have high peer recognition and professional achievement.

1974 Kathy Bates is retiring from Xavier H.S. in Appleton, Wis. after 45 years. She started there as an English teacher before becoming the school's athletic director.

1977 The Rev. Daniel Felton has been appointed as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Duluth, Minn. See page 14.

1979 David Barthel has been hired as the new chief executive officer for health logic at Health Logic Interactive Inc.

1985 Jane Sequin was sworn in as the new Marinette (Wis.) County Circuit Court Branch 1 judge, after being elected to the position in April 2020.

1987 Elizabeth (Goard) Agen acquired her Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS) and Certified in Healthcare Compliance (CHC) credentials, and became a member of Mensa. She is the senior director of regulatory affairs for UP Health System.

1987 Dan Bramschreiber has been inducted into the Bonduel (Wis.) H.S. Athletic Hall of Fame.

1987 Lisa (Ploor) Mueller was selected as a 2021 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellow. She has worked as a first-grade teacher at Corpus Christi School and St. John Bosco Catholic School in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., for 34 years.

1989 John Kulas and his band, Betsy

Ade & the Well-Known Strangers, were nominated for three 2020 Wisconsin Area Music Industry Awards (WAMI): Song of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year and Strings. Kulas plays bass guitar.

1990 Thomas Guetzloff has been named the dean of mathematics and sciences at Cochise College.

1990 Col. Erica Vodak Nelson has retired from the U.S. Army after 30 years of service.

1990 Kevin Revolinski published a collection of short stories entitled "Stealing Away." Author Nickolas Butler praised the book: "Stealing Away" is a lush, shimmering collection, at once globe-trotting and far-a-field, and also somehow as intimate and quotidian as any small hometown. A fantastic debut."

1992 Will Wittkopf has joined the board of directors of Great North Bank, a family-owned, independent community bank serving Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

1993 Carl Atwell was featured in a Wisconsin State Journal article about his work as the president of Gempler's, an outdoor clothing and equipment store in Mount Horeb, Wis.

1993 Jennifer Bergersen has been named CEO of Granite Hills Hospital in West Allis, Wis.

1994 Karen (Paxton) Onesti Doherty has been promoted to GS13 senior property manager for the Lower Manhattan Field Office. She is responsible for three federal buildings..

1994 Angela Terry has published her first

novel called "Charming Falls Apart," released August 2020. Best-selling author Meg Donohue says, "From the very first page, I was hooked on this tale of heartbreak, self-discovery and one woman's charming determination to turn lemons into lemonade."

Terry shares the premise of "Charming": "After losing her job and fiancé the day before her 35th birthday, people-pleaser and rule-follower Allison James decides she needs some new life rules, and fast. So she embarks on a self-help mission only to realize that her old life wasn't as perfect as she thought, and that to find her happily-ever-after, it's time to make her own rules."

The novel had its nascence at a bachelorette party, says Terry: "A group of us, ranging in age from thirties to fifties, were sitting around the pool talking about life, careers, and Elizabeth Gilbert's book 'Big Magic.' This one woman who seemed like the most 'together' out of all of us said that she wasn't exactly happy at her job, but wasn't totally unhappy either, yet she wanted to do something else. But she had gotten this job, she was good at it, and she didn't have any apparent 'passions' so what else was she going to do with her life. At that time, I had left big law and was pursuing my passion for writing, and so I wanted to shake her and say, 'Life is too short! You can do anything!' Then I realized, I leapt because writing has always been the one big thing I felt driven to do; but what about people who don't have a specific passion or direction?"

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1994 Angela Terry has published her first

1996 Michael Donovan was selected to present his paper "Ion Exchange Resistant GCLs for Exposed Liners and Capping for Mine Closure" at the third International Congress of Planning for Closure 2020 virtual summit. In the paper, he evaluates a new class of polymer modified Geosynthetic Clay Liners (GCLs) and their performance in conditions often found in mining.

1996 Tammy (Thompson) Moynihan has been named the new president of the Wisconsin Mathematics Council.

1996 Bill Quirk joined Freenome as chief financial officer.

1996 Heather Terrien has earned a graduate degree in at-risk and alternative education from Marian University in August 2020. She teaches English at Green Bay Preble H.S.

1997 Rick Tuggle graduated from the U.S. Naval War College with a Master of Arts in national security and strategic studies, and a graduate concentration in ethics and emerging military technologies.

1998 Megan (Jaskolski) Muthupandiyam has seen her illustrated journal of contemplative poems titled "Forty Days in the Wilderness, Wandering" published by Finishing Line Press.

1999 Jeffrey Montoya has earned a doctorate in health professions education, with distinction, from Logan University.

1999 Trevor Peterson has accepted the position of director of development at the Pritzker Military Museum & Library in

Alumni Award Winners 2020

St. Norbert College annually celebrates alumni who exemplify Norbertine ideals in their daily lives.

Alma Mater Award



Judith Koepl '63 has dedicated herself to a lifetime of service towards people of all ages, including children and seniors alike, with an emphasis on areas such as diversity and inclusion and support to those who are grieving.

Distinguished Achievement Award in Business



Daniel Pichler '83 has had a significant impact on the world of business through the commitment and Catholic values he displayed as a leader in the field of accounting for nearly 40 years.

Distinguished Achievement Award in Business



Karen Stuckey '79 has spent the majority of her career in retail, working her way up to notable positions within companies and striving to support other women in business.

Read more about our award winners. snc.edu/magazine

Our 2021 award program focuses on all those alumni who served as front-line workers and volunteers during the early days of the pandemic, whether in delivering vital supplies and services, providing medical care or ministering to those most deeply affected. Those deserving alumni of whose work we knew were honored at the 2021 Alumni Awards ceremony during Homecoming Weekend, which fell after our print date. Watch for a list of the 2021 awardees in our spring issue. snc.edu/alumni/awards

Chicago. He previously spent 19 years at Chicago Children's Advocacy Center.

1999 Blake Sorensen has been named head hockey coach for Notre Dame College Prep in Niles, Ill. He previously played six seasons of professional hockey in Europe.

2001 Beth Borgen has been appointed president of Lakeland University. She is the first female president in the institution's 158-year history. *Read more about Borgen at snc.edu/news/enews/archive.html.*

2001 Chris Koszuta has been promoted to vice president of digital and e-commerce at Hal Leonard.

2001 David Perkins has been appointed boys' soccer coach for Verona (Wis.) Area H.S.

2002 When COVID placed his acting career on temporary hold, **Tim Parrish**, who appeared in HBO's hit series "Ballers," turned to his experience in the roofing, real estate and service industries.

Parrish told Everyone's Internet Presswire, "An old coworker of mine from 10 years ago brought up a roofing company he is working with in Texas helping homeowners recover from the devastating storms, and his story inspired me to pitch in." Parrish teamed up with McAllen Valley Roofing Co. to give a free roof to a first-responder in need.

2004 Eric Lembke and his wife, Yuree, have been endorsed by American Baptist Churches-International Ministries to be global servants to Thailand.

2004 Jill (Schmidt) Meyer has been named

From the heart of a community

Providing relief to isolated residents, **Ron Reynolds '61** and his wife, Rose Marie, arranged a COVID-safe outdoor event at their neighboring nursing home. Rose Marie spoke and Ron sang a couple of songs.

"They're still doing it every week! We've acquired a couple more people from the village who like to sing. ... A retired Episcopal minister adds a short homily," Ron says.

"It helps with this business of going stir-crazy," says Ron. "One lady gets all dressed up."

associate vice president of academic success and institutional effectiveness at the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

2005 An article by **Jeremy Doughty** on "A Narrative Study of South African Community Members' Experiences with an International Service-Learning Program" was recently published in the International Journal for Research on Community Engagement & Service-Learning.

2005 Wendy (Woelfel) Vander Bloomen has been promoted to senior underwriting specialist at Auto Owners Insurance. She is the lead underwriter for commercial lines.

2006 Bobby Maher, owner and founder of WoolsMGMT, an artist management agency based in Minneapolis, has been named to the Minnesota Presenters Network board of directors.

2007 Don Norwick has accepted a position at Wilmot Union (Wis.) H.S. as a social studies teacher.

2007 Mike Thiel reached a cumulative total of two million streams on Spotify with his project Eric Lives Here. His song "Bigger Stronger Faster" was selected as the theme for a new national advertising campaign for the Hyundai Sonata.

2009 Steph Birmingham was the recipient of the 2019-2020 Volunteer of the Year Award from Brown County Health & Human Services.

2009 Billy Korinko has been named director of the Cassandra Voss Center at St. Norbert College.

2009 Travis Vanden Heuvel has been named vice president of business development of marketing and advertising agency KHROME in Green Bay.

2010 Nate Hurlbut is one of nine attorneys welcomed to Stoel Rives LLC.

2010 Brian Peterson has earned his Ph.D. in physical therapy from UW-La Crosse and is seeing patients at Paramount Performance in Suamico, Wis.

2010 Allyson Yankle accepted a position as an assistant professor of political science at Radford University.

2011 Nicolas Miramontes has accepted a position at the Rockford (Ill.) Fire Department.

2012 Mary Catherine Baird has accepted a position at Lakeland Academy as the college preparatory school's dean of higher education relations and intellectual property.

2012 Mike Cremer recently celebrated the release of his debut novel "I'm No Hero," about an average teenager who's trying to get through his senior year of high school when he learns he's actually from an alien planet that was annihilated by a megalomaniacal galactic conqueror.

2013 Laura Gordon has graduated from Bergin University of Canine Studies in Penn Grove, Calif., with a degree in assistance dog education.

2014 Cassidy Mickelson has been hired as the first executive director of Charles A. Grignon Mansion in Kaukauna, Wis.

2014 Maria (Dzurik) Selling, has been named sustainability manager for The Cloetta AB in Stokholm, Sweden.

2015 Kaitlyn Miller Balsewicz, development officer at the DuPage Foundation, has been named West Suburban Philanthropic Network's Nonprofit Professional Rising Star of the Year. "At just 27, Kait has already distinguished herself as an exceptional community leader, development professional and champion for philanthropy," her nominator wrote.

2015 Holly Lynn has earned a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in nonprofit leadership. She is employed by Princeton-Blairstown Center in Hardwick Township, N.J.

2015 Anna Miller has earned a Master of Arts in human rights from Columbia University.

2015 Elizabeth Schmitt has earned her doctorate degree in government and public policy from the University of Arizona. She is an assistant professor of political science at UW-Platteville.

2016 Matthew Ferch was ordained to the transitional diaconate for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on April 24, 2021.

2016 Natasha Geiger has been promoted to director of digital content at WFRV Local 5 TV in Green Bay.

2017 Justin Lepscier has been named one of the 24 most influential Native American leaders in Wisconsin by Madison365 for his work as a grants financial analyst with FSA and as the board chairman of the Wolf River Development Co.

2017 Courtney Trepanier has been promoted to project executive for Elevate97, a brand solutions company in the Green Bay area.

2017 Shelby VanRossum completed her medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin-Green Bay. She will be pursuing a Family Medicine residency at the MCW Fox Valley program in Appleton, Wis.

2018 Jenna (Mulder) Butts has earned a graduate degree as a physician assistant in emergency medicine from Trevecca Nazarene University.

2019 (MBA '20) Erin (Young) Dorn has earned a master's of business administration with a focus on health care administration from St. Norbert College and is now a marketing strategist for ThedaCare in Neenah, Wis.

2020 Amy Holzer has received funding for a summer research project titled "Using MRI-based Radiomics to Predict Brain Metastasis Recurrence in Patients Treated With Stereotactic Radiosurgery" at the human oncology department of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health.

■ St. Norbert College's Discover Science Seminar Series hosted **Jeremy Cramey '99**, vice president of global quality assurance at Rockline Industries; **Craig Schaning '02**, business manager and **Christopher Zais '01**, group leader, both of global contract-research organization PPD; **Brennan Schneider '16**, who spoke about his path to dentistry; and **Carson Torhorst '19**, laboratory technician at Prevention Genetics.

■ Current Young Professionals has honored St. Norbert College alumni and employees **Meredith Hansen '13 MBA '20** and **Billy Korinko '09**, as well as alumni **Cathryn Siolka '19** and **Bradley LaPierre MBA '18**, with 2021 Future 15 Awards.

■ Graduates from St. Norbert's master's programs last May include SNC dual-degree alums **Anthony Abts '79 M.T.S. '21**, **Scott Pearce '97 M.T.S. '21**, **Nina (Nolan) Rouse '07 MLS '21** and **Daniel Webster '17 MBA '21**.

Share your news! Submit your item at snc.edu/go/keepintouch.

Keep track and connect with fellow alumni on Facebook. facebook.com/sncalumni

Without question

The first time I met John Miller face-to-face was to interview him about the opportunities that come with the growing diversity on campus (page 7). But that wasn't what was top-of-mind for him that morning. It was his eldest son's 10th birthday – double figures! Not to mention, it was also John's 87th day as a St. Norbert dean: a role in which he was finding a welcome, a fine challenge and a lot to enjoy. At SNC Day, his baby was blowing kisses at people, taking balloons from them and just enjoying the space. Miller's sons care very little about terms like critical race theory, he says – and they shouldn't. They just enjoy life.

Our histories contain plenty of pain, but at SNC there is resilience, and space enough for true community. And, on this day that John named as his 10th anniversary of "being a dad," he was in reflective mood. In seven or eight years, his new 10-year old will likely be picking a college. He may not choose to enroll where his father works. But it is the work of all of us to ensure that, whatever else might deter Miller Jr., the question of his inclusion will never be in doubt.

Susan Allen



Net win

The limited-edition, 25th anniversary Wilson basketball and box packaging celebrating the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) was designed by SNC art alum **Julia Musacrello '14**. Incorporating all the WNBA team colors and league logos, the commemorative ball was gifted to members of this year's championship team and to 25 other influential women in and around the sport.

An athlete herself, Julia says she was honored to design a bright product for an extremely vibrant league – a league that speaks up for women's and non-binary rights and paves the way for the world to see more of women's sports. She was "beyond inspired" to design a basketball for other fellow female athletes and is excited to debut more Wilson/WNBA product designs, coming soon.



Frame by frame

Race, gender, comics and superheroes inspired "Black Women in Sequence: Re-Inking Comics, Graphic Novels, and Anime." The book's author, the artist, poet and professor Deborah Whaley of the University of Iowa, was on campus this fall to offer an interactive series of events at the Cassandra Voss Center for issues of gender and identity.

Embroidering the story

Mexico's long and rich history of embroidery helped stitch together friendship and understanding at a Sept. 20 event hosted by the Latine Student Union. The student group invited **April Beiswenger (Theatre Studies)** to lead an exploration of creativity and culture through embroidery as part of a Hispanic Heritage Month program on campus and as an extension of Beiswenger's own interactive embroidery exhibit then showing in the Godschalx Gallery. The event was part of a heritage series that included games, live music, a fiesta and the Ambassador of Peace event honoring Bishop Mark Seitz for his humanitarian work on the United States/Mexican border.



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Parting Shot / Taking to the Water

“As one goes through life one learns that if you don’t paddle your own canoe, you don’t move.” – *Katharine Hepburn*

