

# St. Norbert

College Magazine | Spring 2022



*Stylish!*

## Unboxing

SNC students love delivery – and we're not (just) talking pizza

## In Print

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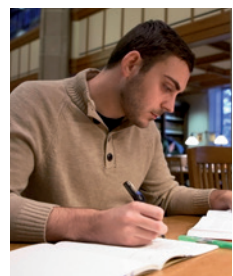
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"My personal play, like that of every other person in the world, went wildly off-script in 2020, often leaving me frustrated, disappointed or confused. Still, I cannot help but give thanks as I enter the new scene each day brings." – **Alex Gruber '18** (Residential Life)



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A new liturgical institute at St. Norbert Abbey is the latest partnership project from a community intent on expanding the ways it responds to the needs of the local church.



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Alums now studying at prestigious law schools around the country state the case for their undergraduate preparation at St. Norbert.

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## Cover Story



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## Unboxing

Today's student has embraced delivery. No matter what they need, they're sending out for it. And we're not (just) talking pizza anymore. Furnishings, HelloFresh meal kits, feline accessories: They're in a van and on their way to SNC.

**On our cover:** Oliver the cat's human is **Amelia Wilcox '23**, who unboxed an order of new duds for him last semester. **Lily Maier '24**, student worker in the magazine office, lent us her new folding sofa (also delivered!) for his photo op.



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## The Future is Bright

There are nine of them, soon to finish a year's worth of data analysis and economic forecasting that is helping Midwest organizations plan their next big moves. They're all undergraduates, and this isn't coursework: These students are fellows of SNC's Center for Business & Economic Analysis.



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## Open Door Policy

This is a story of two storied institutions and the woman – **Christine Loose '88** – who lives out their parallel cultures of radical hospitality each and every day.

## Online

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



**In colorful array:** The Dia de la Virgen (**page 5**) brought the faithful to Mass at Old St. Joe's – among them, visiting dancers gorgeously costumed to hail the Holy Queen.



**In the barber's chair:** A local business got students lined up and trimmed up, with a little friendly barbershop banter thrown in (**page 9**).



**In dog years:** As a de-stresser (**page 11**), furry friends can't be bettered – and they don't seem to mind the job at all.



**In the record books:** **Kendall Karcz '22** reflects on athletics and academics at St. Norbert after he joins an exclusive club as Football's fifth All-American (**page 12**).



**Inclusion:** **Jennifer Bonds-Raacke** (Academic Affairs) and **Billy Korinko** (CVC) share "Lessons From a Small Residential Liberal Arts College Striving for Big Change" (**page 13**) in an influential higher-ed blog.



**In his own experience:** "One of the biggest mistakes I made was never seeking support," admits **Joe Webb** (Student Affairs) (**page 14**). "Campus resources are not just for people struggling academically. They're for students who want to be the best possible student they can be."



**In law school:** **Hunter Van Asten '19** and **Elizabeth Totzke '19** talk about their journeys to one of the country's most prestigious grad programs (**page 27**).

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**.





### **Día de la Virgen**

The Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated across the Americas every year on Dec. 12. The day commemorates her apparition to a villager, Juan Diego, on the hills of Tepeyac in Mexico in 1531. On campus, the day saw the faithful bringing flowers to the Shrine of Mary. Later, traditional dancing and readings preceded the evening Mass at Old St. Joe's.



More images from the celebration are available at [snc.edu/magazine](https://snc.edu/magazine).

# Meaningful opportunities build across the generations



President Brian Bruess '90 reflects on the way transformative experiences tend to develop a generosity of spirit – a gratefully received abundance that, in its turn, creates opportunity for the generations to come.

## Impactful

St. Norbert College, founded in 1898, will celebrate its 125th anniversary next year.

In the influential 2022 U.S. News & World Report rankings, SNC appears among the country's top 10 Catholic liberal arts colleges. And the college is once again included among America's Best National Liberal Arts Colleges. It currently places at 117 overall on that list.

There's something uniquely captivating about our work in higher education: We have the privilege of bearing witness to the magic that happens when a student discovers their passion. Like Molly Freye, whose work with the Violence Against Women Act grant team led to a passion for lifting up the voices of underrepresented groups in the workplace and in our communities. Like Subash Lamichhane, whose first-semester psychology class sparked his passion for neuroscience. And like Cara Orbell, whose travel podcast led her to discover how she came to life when interviewing others about their own passions.

These enchanting stories surface every day at St. Norbert. You'll likely get glimpses of some yourself as you read in the pages that follow about the lives of our current students and of our alumni who are so generously sharing their gifts and their passions with the world.

Then come more extraordinary moments, when we see the student experience intersect with the passion of those who choose to give generously to the college: When alumna and trustee Karen McDiarmid establishes a fund to continuously develop faculty's understanding of our mission, support student learning, and bolster the college's efforts with equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging. When the family of Wm. "Red" Lewis, a longtime friend of the college, gives to support student emergency financial needs because, as Red often said, "Sometimes people just need a little hand up." When alumni Lauren and Adam Winters establish operating endowments for both the men's soccer and the women's swimming and diving programs – the first such endowments to support each program – because they were so moved by their own athletic experiences.

Hearing the passion that donors and alumni have for both the college and for our students is what makes our new Support What Matters campaign so exciting and so joyful. The campaign, focused on building the St. Norbert College endowment, allows our alumni, friends and families to see the impact of their gifts lived out in the SNC student experience. It also makes a statement.

Their gifts show a belief in the long-term health

and vitality of the college; a belief in what our faculty, staff, board of trustees and leadership of the college do day to day to impact student lives; and a belief in our mission and in what it means to be a Catholic, liberal arts, Norbertine college.

An endowment allows us to dramatically improve the overall quality of what we do at St. Norbert College, to produce even better outcomes. If our loan default rate is already a remarkably low 1 percent, how do we make a St. Norbert education affordable to even more students? If our four-year graduation rate is one of the best in the state, how do we make it even stronger? If 96 percent of our graduates have a job or are in grad school or serving in the military after six months, how do we bring that up even further?

Giving to the endowment is an investment into those key areas and more. It's an investment in our students, making a St. Norbert College education affordable through scholarships. It's an investment in the SNC experience, helping to fund programs and activities that are important and impactful to today's students. It's an investment in our faculty, unleashing excitement and interest by fueling intellectual pursuits, funding student-faculty collaborative research, and providing access to equipment and supplies.

As we approach our 125th anniversary as the world's only Norbertine institution of higher education, we're also investing in deepening our understanding of our mission traditions and in integrating those understandings into the lived experiences of our students, so that we're able to graduate students who are distinguished, impactful, ethical leaders who pursue the common good. Doing so is what ensures St. Norbert College remains distinctive and relevant in the world of Catholic higher education.

A gift to the Support What Matters campaign is an investment in St. Norbert College. Though it has a profound impact on us today, the true gift is that of supporting the college – and of supporting St. Norbert students as they pursue their many and varied passions – over the course of the next 125 years.



Students collect water samples on the Abbey Pond.

## Spring kick-off to Support What Matters

A May 19 kick-off event will launch Support What Matters, the next campaign for St. Norbert. The \$125 million initiative is timed to align with the upcoming 125th anniversary of the college.

The college undertakes Support What Matters, a fundraising drive focused on SNC's endowment, in service of an ambitious goal: to preserve, enhance and amplify the things that make a St. Norbert education unique – an education that is also uniquely important, in a complex and ever-evolving world.

President Brian Bruess '90 says: "Pivoting from a really successful era of raising funds for facilities to focusing on our endowment is a bold move for an institution. It's about the vibrancy and health of our beloved college. It's about the intergenerational equity, and financial health and future of the college.

"Endowments speak to an institution's reputational strength. Growing our endowment allows us to proudly and unapologetically count ourselves among the top 100 liberal arts colleges in the country. We're a little outside of that right now, with our \$190 million endowment. Given the quality of what we're doing here at St. Norbert, we'd like to build up our endowment closer to \$400 million."

The Support What Matters campaign focuses on four priorities that reflect SNC's commitment to supporting its students' flourishing as they pursue their journeys of discovery at the college. These essentials for the college's future strength are:

- Scholarships and financial aid – the means to extend opportunity to every qualified student.
- Contemporary student experiences – the path to an education of exceptional strength and breadth.
- Mission: Catholic, Norbertine, liberal arts – a commitment to honoring and furthering SNC's legacy.
- Strategic innovation – funding for the programs and practices that will shape a thriving future for the institution.

With the campaign's focus squarely on affordability and student experience in the context of a radiant, vital and well-loved mission, Bruess sees the campaign as a way to not only underpin what has always mattered at the college but also to remind the college's friends of St. Norbert's essence as an institution.

"It's rare, I think, for an institution to be positioned at such a dynamic intersection as it begins a campaign," Bruess says. "We're an institution that is coming off a previous campaign that raised resources for facilities; an institution that is strong financially; and an institution with a strategic plan that focuses on initiatives that are nicely funded by an endowment. The convergence of these three aspects is really quite incredible.

"Think of our endowment as a long-term investment fund for our students, our college and our mission."

## Endowments matter



Endowed funds support the lived experience of an institution. Endowments not only underpin a college's long-term financial security, they support its ongoing operations: the teaching, research, learning and co-curricular life that sustain the vibrancy of a thriving campus.

Endowed gifts to St. Norbert have funded a range of activities big and small but all vital to the organization's ongoing success: from professorial chairs to student research, from vocational exploration to athletic endeavor.

## EASY TO DO

At [snc.edu/giving](https://snc.edu/giving) readers can find out more, donate or catch up on SNC stories of gifts given – and of those who benefit from them.

Financial relief

A gift of \$20,000 from the family of the late William “Red” Lewis has helped launch the St. Norbert College Student Emergency Fund. The funds will support students struggling to continue in college because of unexpected financial expenses up to \$500.

“As he [her father] always said, ‘Sometimes people just need a little hand up,’” says Lewis’ daughter **Rebecca Lewis-Verheyden ’93**. William Lewis’ daughter **Kelly ’90** and granddaughter **Katy ’21** are also St. Norbert alums.

First in post



SNC welcomes its first post-doctoral diversity teaching fellow this semester. **Choua Xiong** (Education), who recently completed her Ph.D. dissertation at UW-Madison, has participated in a range of community-based participatory action research projects that center the perspectives of minoritized youth. Her doctoral research on an indigenous community in northern Thailand’s educational experiences was funded by Fulbright-Hays.

**Jamie Lynch** (Sociology, SRI) co-chaired the search for the new position. He says, “Dr. Xiong’s commitment to understanding the challenges incoming students from diverse backgrounds face when entering higher education is directly connected to the mission of St. Norbert College.” Xiong will teach courses in the teacher-education discipline and first-year seminar program and will engage in research and curricula initiatives on equity, diversity, inclusion and justice.



Conflict, flight and faith

A global seminar in Rome and Jordan on Interfaith Relations in the Middle East included a visit to the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue in Vatican City and featured several briefings organized by **Jill Drzewiecki ’99** of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS).

**Andrew O’Connor** (Theology) says the briefings told “a riveting account of JRS’s recent evacuation from Afghanistan. ... Students were able to field questions to their peers from Iraq, Syria and Yemen, who shared moving experiences fleeing their homes and arriving in Jordan.”

Reforming

**Abby Trollinger** (History) has chronicled the rise of the unemployed as a force for change and the birth of government-funded social insurance in “Becoming Entitled: Relief, Unemployment, and Reform during the Great Depression,” published by Temple University Press. She captures the flourishing labor and settlement house movements in Chicago that led people to shed the stigma of joblessness and replace it with reforming zeal.

Funded

**Erik Brekke** (Physics) has received a National Science Foundation Research in Undergraduate Institutions award for his project on microwave to optical frequency conversion through six-wave mixing. As well as furthering communications technology, the project is building undergraduates’ skills in experimental technique, data analysis, computation and

scientific communication.

Congregational

The Sociological Quarterly has published “I Want to Reclaim Christianity: Boundary Work Among Inclusive Christians” by **Laura Krull** (Sociology). The study, based on her Ph.D. research of a liberal Christian congregation, examines how churches might contribute to inequality in how they maintain their identity – even when that identity is inclusive.

Laudable

Three SNC faculty have been named among the Greater Green Bay Chamber’s Current Young Professionals Future 15: **Craig Ford** (Theology & RS), **Marc Schaffer** (Economics, CBEA) and **Raquel Lopez** (Psychology).

Metaphorical

**Toni Morgan** (Communication & Media Studies) is co-author of a Family Journal article, “Born Under my Heart: Adoptive Parents’

Use of Metaphors to Make Sense of Their Past, Present, and Future.” The authors recommend that interventions should meet families where they are, focusing on the overall picture of adoption and on tools, not fixes.

Resilient

Educational attainment is crucial for young Latinx/Hispanic people in northeast Wisconsin and nationally, says **Grazia Villarroel** (Political Science) in a report for Envision (formerly Greater Green Bay Community Council). Villarroel says the rate of this group’s population growth and its vulnerability to job losses caused by the pandemic and the growth in automation makes a focus on education urgent.

In 2019, Latinx/Hispanics were the only group that showed a rise in college enrollment rates before experiencing a 20 percent dip in the pandemic. “Without educational attainment not only will it be very difficult for a majority of

Latinx/Hispanics to improve their quality of life, but foresight signals indicate that they will actually be worse off if everything stays the same,” says the report, “A Growing Energy In Northeast Wisconsin: Latinx/Hispanic Youth On The Horizon.”

Villarroel reports: “We often equate being Latinx/Hispanic with being an immigrant. While this is true for many Latinx/Hispanics, Latinx/Hispanics’ share of immigrants declined from 37 percent in 2010 to 33 percent in 2017. And 90 percent of under-18s from this group were born in the United States.” But she believes “the resilience, work ethic and positive nature of the Latinx/Hispanic [population] bodes well for our community.”

Hosting

SNC students will present alongside seasoned scholars when the Wisconsin Philosophical Association holds its annual conference on campus April 23.



Look good, feel good

A local business got SNC students lined up and trimmed with a little friendly banter thrown in. Starz Barber & Beauty set up on campus to offer that classic neighborhood barbershop service.

Interviews with Starz and students at [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine).

## “Is His Head Worth a Hat?” – William Shakespeare

I'm still a fairly young alum but by chance I've already been given a surprising variety of parts to play at St. Norbert. So it was a little ironic to find myself cast as Rosalind in SNC's production of "As You Like It." Shakespeare himself cast male actors in female parts and the plot of "As You Like It" in fact turns on Rosalind's clever disguise as the boy shepherd Ganymede. It was a role that gave me the chance to work, laugh, and learn again with the college's gem of a theatre department. If you're in the cast, you help construct the set. If you're in the crew, you participate in acting exercises. If you're an alum, a staff person, a faculty member, or – like me – all three and involved in the production, you engage in dialogue (scripted and unscripted) with students and make the words on the page a reality on the stage together. Whoever you are, you do all this in an environment of mutual respect and sincerity in which every person is seen as playing an integral part. In short, the theatre department practices the *communio* preached and nurtured by the Norbertine order for 900 years.

By grace, I have already been cast in five named roles at SNC and each has given me a different lens on the many departments and many more people striving to understand and realize *communio*. 2014-18, my primary role was that of student, and in that role I saw professors and staff members (and especially Michelle in Ruth's!) pour thought and care into their support and formation of my peers and me. I studied *communio* explicitly as a research fellow for the Center for Norbertine Studies, heard it preached during Mass at Old St. Joe's, and sought to model it as an RA for honors students in Bergstrom and service-learning students in Michels. Writing for, editing, and leading the St. Norbert Times reinforced the importance of pursuing and discussing the truth in establishing an atmosphere of trust, even – especially – when the truth is uncomfortable and challenging.

In August 2018, I flew to Boston for grad school and simultaneously settled into the role of an SNC alum. My own ongoing care for the college did not diminish the inspiration I felt as I saw the new generation of students also living into its ideals and mission. I thought I would continue as an alum when I flew back to Wisconsin in May 2020 with my master's in theology and no great aspirations apart from the hope of not contracting COVID-19.

An email from the Killeen Chair in June offered me a new part to play, that of a researcher and writer

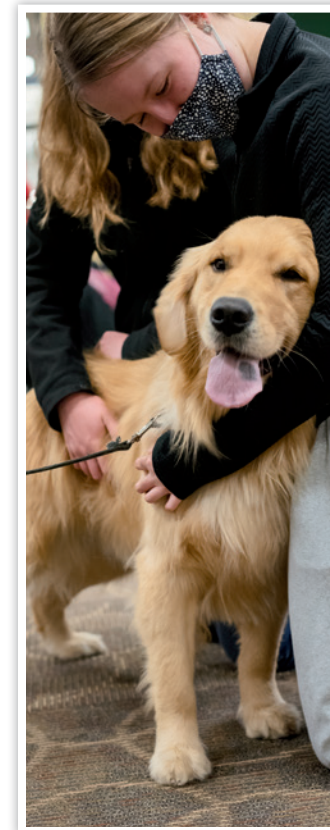
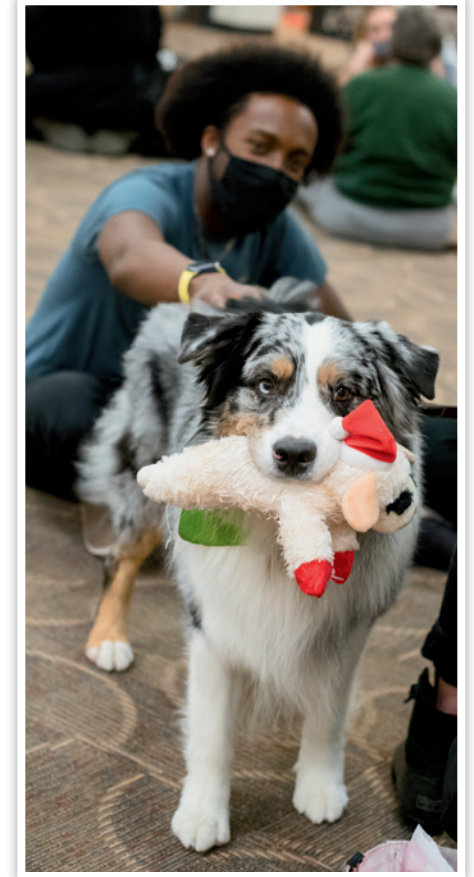
on the history of the Norbertine order in northeastern Wisconsin. Then, in July, came an audition for instructor of the *Communio* & the Norbertines course. In September, a callback for the brand-new role of quarantine/isolation student liaison literally called me back to campus, specifically to a comfortable suite in the Kress Inn. And this semester, I'll serve as an area coordinator in Housing. Each role had its own personality and goal, but each still impressed on me the importance, challenges and gifts of attending to those on the margins, committing to substantive dialogue and building unity through – not despite – diversity.

In May 2021, the Kress Inn reopened its doors to the public as the college's safety protocols and the country's vaccination drive saw a decrease in COVID-19 cases. Settled in my new apartment, I was happy to continue acting as the Q/I liaison in the fall semester and reminding students in quarantine or isolation that they are valued members of this community. I've gratefully taken up the role of instructor again, too, this time for introductory theology. First-year students need a good deal of stage direction. The experience of assisting these students to read the scripts of Scripture and theological texts and also understand, grapple with, interpret and respond to these lines has been invaluable. My hope has been to give these students space to rehearse the deep thinking, honest dialogue and just action that will enable them to live out the mission of St. Norbert College during and long after their student years.

My personal play, like that of every other person in the world, went wildly off-script in 2020, often leaving me frustrated, disappointed or confused. Still, I cannot help but give thanks as I enter the new scene each day brings. This prolonged pandemic improv has not ended in tragedy but rather brought me back to the colorful and compassionate cast and crew of St. Norbert College. As educator, liaison, scholar, and alum, I have received the gift of approaching *communio* – and my own self – in multiple roles. I do not always feel worthy of the hats I have worn in this community, but I strive to wear them humbly, gratefully, justly. Whatever parts I'm offered in the future, I will strive to connect distinct perspectives in mutually respectful and enriching dialogue so that all at SNC may better understand and teach our values by word and example.

**Alex Gruber '18 (Residential Life)** is a newly appointed area coordinator and continues to teach in SNC's theology program.

NEWS OF ST. NORBERT



### Canine companions

How to pick a favorite, these pups are all so adorable! Students needing a study break found plenty of new best friends when the Green Bay Packerland Kennel Club dropped by campus. As a de-stresser, these furry friends can't be bettered – and they don't seem to mind the job at all. Their doggy visits have become something of a fixture on the academic calendar during the week before exams.



More dogs to delight in at [snc.edu/magazine](https://snc.edu/magazine).

NEWS OF ST. NORBERT

# Honors pile up for newest All-American

Green Knight football's **Kendall Karcz '22** picked up his second first-team All-America honor in December when he was named to the first team of the Associated Press Division III All-America Team. The senior was one of five defensive backs selected for the honor.

Karcz is only the fourth SNC gragger to be named first-team All-America by the Associated Press, joining running back **Norm Jarock '58**, defensive end **Dave Jauquet '65** and linebacker **Jeremiah Janssen '01**. The Associated Press honor came just a few days after Karcz was named to the American Football Coaches Association Division III All-America Team for the 2021 season.

During his final season as a Green Knight, Karcz, who wears #23 on the field, totaled seven interceptions with 170 return yards. He also finished with 51 tackles, 2½ tackles-for-loss, one quarterback sack and two passes defended.

Karcz had four interceptions in St. Norbert's 68-0 win game over Wisconsin Lutheran on Oct. 9 at Schneider Stadium, with three in the first quarter and two returned for touchdowns, matching the Green Knight record for interceptions returned for touchdowns in one game. Karcz's four interceptions were the most for an SNC Knight since **Bill Van Lanen '58** set his 1957 school-record five interceptions against Loras College. The four-interception game also ties a NACC record, and Karcz's two "pick sixes" set an outright NACC single-game record.

Karcz ended his last season by scoring three touchdowns and also scoring on a blocked punt return for a touchdown at home against Rockford, Oct. 30.

As one of the few SNC players honored at such heights, Karcz says he is proud to be in such great company:



"There have been a lot of good ball players to not only come through [the Schneider Stadium] locker room but the locker rooms that [SNC] used in the past ... to be among those names is a huge honor."

He says leaving Green Knight football behind after such a momentous final season, with all the fun and hard work he has put in, is going to be a challenge. He is continuing to train in hopes of having the opportunity to play football again at the NFL or CFL level.

Karcz is among 10 Green Knights named to the All-Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference team. Five players were named first-team All-NACC: linebacker **Jake Berken '22**, defensive lineman **Mitch McCabe '22**, offensive lineman **Donovan Salewski '22**, punter **Brady Wodack '22** and Karcz. Linebacker **Maccabee Barrett '22** was named second-team All-NACC. Offensive lineman **EJ Mastrocola '22**, tight end **David Lox '22**, wide receiver/return specialist **Parker Lawrence '25** and linebacker **Kevin Pedersen '22** earned honorable mention honors.

**Kendall Karcz '22** reflects on athletics and academics at St. Norbert College. [snc.edu/magazine](https://snc.edu/magazine)

## Intentional

**Jennifer Bonds-Raacke**, provost and vice president of academic affairs, reflects on St. Norbert's DEIB (diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging) journey in an article for Dean & Provost journal. Her co-authors were **David Bailey**, associate provost, and **John Miller**, dean of curriculum and senior diversity officer.

Their article, "Be Committed, Intentional and Patient: Creating a Diverse Academic Affairs Leadership Team," itemizes five key factors that help institutions to develop DEIB work:

■ **Honesty:** "Taking a hard and honest look – the good, the bad and the improvable – at the current organizational structure is a necessary and, without question, challenging first step."

■ **Patience:** "Most changes cannot and will not happen overnight but buy-in from stakeholders will lead to confidence that any movement forward is a step in the right direction."

■ **Commitment:** "Spend time explaining the changes (and the need for them) and being open to additional ideas. Be unwavering in the continual education regarding the importance of the work to all administrative leaders, faculty, and staff."

■ **Investment:** "Prioritize resources for these efforts."

■ **Intentionality:** "Be purposeful in creating pipelines through mentoring and pursuing opportunities to develop talent."

“Shining a Light on Diversity & Inclusion: Lessons From a Small Residential Liberal Arts College Striving for Big Change,” by Jennifer Bonds-Raacke and the CVC's **Billy Korinko '09** appeared in the higher-ed blog Academic Impressions and is shared in our online issue. [snc.edu/magazine](https://snc.edu/magazine)

## Supported

A \$300,000 gift will power a new fund dedicated to mission-aligned faculty development in diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. The endowment comes from **Karen McDiarmid '75**, a college trustee. She says, "I hope the story we tell today through this endowment helps form the future."

Initially, the fund will provide opportunities for new faculty that may include instruction in new pedagogies, a mentorship program for minority hires, and the chance to visit the Norbertine community ministering to Hispanic and indigenous populations in Albuquerque, N.M.

## Impactful

Non-profit and corporate clients are eager for the Cassandra Voss Center's first six-month Program for

Inclusive Excellence. The CVC will support organizations with their DEIB work with monthly half-day meetings and an initial whole-day retreat.

CVC director Billy Korinko says: "We've had an incredibly significant response. There is a hunger for this kind of space and opportunity to connect on these issues. We're hitting a need."

He describes the program as a "natural extension of the long-standing work that the center has done to create a deep, incubator-type experience for professionals to dive into complex issues around identity and build relationships with other folks doing this really timely and urgent work."

"We were wary of creating something that you can passively consume like a series of webinars," he says. "In the cohort experience we are creating something more sustainable. You build relationships over six months, you build bonds and are in dialogue with one another. There is something really compelling about this that helps you continue to do this work after the program finishes. It's not about the what, it's about the how – how to create buy-in in your company."

## Shared

The CVC is also building on the success of its six-week virtual anti-racism workshop launched last year, which attracted 350 faculty, staff and students. This workshop has now been extended to alumni and the broader community. Topics include "What Is Racism?" and "What Is 'Whiteness' and 'Intersectionality'?"

## Honest

The CVC's faculty Dialogue & Equity Cohort, a resource for faculty to devise equitable and inclusive pedagogy strategies

through monthly discussions, has tripled in size since the first cohort of 2020-21.

There are nine faculty involved in 2021-22 following the initial "intimate group" of three, says director Billy Korinko. "I'm really proud that faculty from every division is represented."

Another aim of the group is to help faculty develop skills to "navigate difficult dialogues around complex issues" related to race and identity.

The current participants are: **Lindsey Bosko-Dunbar** and **Jonathan Dunbar** (Mathematics); **Will Wheeler** and **John-Gabriel Licht** (Economics); **Toni Morgan** and **Ben Chan** (Philosophy); **Laurie MacDiarmid** (English); **Zhuoyi Zhao** (Accounting); and **Laura Krull** (Sociology).

## Double win



Fresh from victory in last semester's Shark Attack business pitch contest, **Brianne DeLain '23** has scored a prestigious State Department Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to fund her study-abroad experience in The Netherlands this semester.

DeLain, a business administration and marketing major, had travel in mind even as she prepared her winning Shark pitch. Her RV Collect system to gather and filter rainwater for RVs and campers topped 24 pitches to a panel of business leaders judging the contest and netted her the \$1,000 prize.

## Answering the call

In response to Pope Francis' call for climate action, SNC has joined the first international cohort of 68 schools enrolled as Laudato Si' Universities. The group was formed by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development to create an actionable plan that addresses several of the world's ecological and social challenges.

**President Brian Bruess '90** says, "Care for the environment is an explicit expression of our mission traditions. Few issues spark more interest among our students than does the matter of the environment. Likewise, our faculty and staff take great pride in the many ways we already engage the spirit of Laudato Si' in the education and operations of the college."

# Becoming the best possible leader he can be

Joe Webb, new vice president for student affairs, knows first-hand how important campus support services can be. As a first-year student at Edinboro University, he slept in the bushes when his school closed for Thanksgiving break. He had no home to return to and was too embarrassed to ask about options within the institution.

It would have been almost inconceivable in the moment to picture this underprivileged young man going on to earn his doctorate in organizational development and taking on a leadership role at St. Norbert College. Or quite possibly, it makes perfect sense.

Webb, new vice-president for student affairs, is a prime example of what can happen when a motivated individual connects with supportive mentors and learns to tap into the resources available. His vision for student affairs at St. Norbert stems from a personal experience that could serve as the premise for a screenplay.

**One of the biggest mistakes I made was never seeking support. Campus resources are not just for people struggling academically. They're for students who want to be the best possible student they can be.**

Growing up in a series of foster homes and group homes since the age of five, Webb did not have the luxury of a consistent family life. He never knew his father, and his mother was unfit to care for him. Fortunately, his athletic ability attracted the attention of colleges and gave him something to shoot for. A poor performance on the SAT made him ineligible for an athletic scholarship, though, and in due course he would end up failing out of Edinboro.

"One of the biggest mistakes I made was never seeking support," Webb admits. "Campus resources are not just for people struggling academically. They're for students who want to be the best possible student they can be."

Webb returned home to Pittsburgh and worked the night shift washing dishes while attending classes at a community college. His high-school football coach had since landed a coaching job at Marietta College, and he invited his former star player to enroll. A member of the board of trustees also took Webb under his wing, and the two mentors continue playing major roles in Webb's life to this day.

"When I work with students, part of our focus is on how the decisions they make today will impact tomorrow," he says. "The difference between you and your peers is the decisions you make. You can develop your own path moving forward, and I'm true testament to that. My challenges weren't because I'm not smart, it's because I didn't apply myself. These men saw something in me I didn't see in myself, and they helped me flourish as a student."

Webb is using the lessons he learned as a student, and later



as a developing administrator, to advance the high-functioning student affairs division at St. Norbert, an operation chock-full of resources that students can use to succeed. He shares his own story when appropriate to illustrate there is always another way.

"In addition to academics, we encourage students to take advantage of co-curricular opportunities to further develop themselves," he explains. "Our goal is to have them not only leave with their degree, but also be more mature, more developed, and be able to transfer the skills they learn in the classroom into the workforce. There are opportunities here to understand the differences in diversity and acquire the multitude of life skills they will need to flourish."

Webb, who joined SNC's senior leadership team in July, is loving life in De Pere with his wife, Maria, and their children, Sofia and Emilio. And, in the small world department, he has reconnected with his high-school quarterback, Jason Vrable, who serves as passing game coordinator for the Green Bay Packers.

An extended interview with Joe Webb is available at [snc.edu/magazine](http://snc.edu/magazine)

## Christina Hankwitz International Education

"My shelves are pretty full! My bookshelf display of gifts from our international students is a way to remember them, and a way to understand their culture a bit better. Students go to the trouble of bringing a piece of their home country all this way. It's something they themselves have identified as being representative of

where they're from, so it must be important to them.

"It helps me remember individual students too. I feel it makes the students understand how important they are to me, that when they give me something I keep it and display it. They're here, we know they're here, they're important to us. The custom started with our former office manager, Linda Wanless, in fact. So that's a piece of Linda that's still here. Her shelves were jam-packed! Jana [Dettlaff] and I have kept up the habit

pretty consistently.

"There's a certain amount of rearranging that goes on as new things arrive. ... There should probably be more dusting than there is!"

**Christina Hankwitz, director of international student and scholar services, has worked at SNC's Center for Global Engagement since 2005.**





## Worship in spirit and truth

A new liturgical institute at St. Norbert Abbey is the latest project from a community intent on expanding the ways it meets the needs of the local church.

Initially planned to begin in the spring of 2020, the institute offered its first program, an Advent & Christmas Seasonal Preparation Workshop, early last fall.

“We postponed because of the influx of COVID,” says **Michael Poradek '11**. “We really wanted to do in-person learning and programs rather than online.” Poradek co-directs the Liturgical Institute with the **Very Rev. Brad Vanden Branden '09**, prior.

The Liturgical Institute offered a Eucharistic Minister Formation Workshop in November, and, in December, Sister Pam Beihl, O.S.F., a former parish leader and director of liturgy at parishes in the Diocese of Green Bay, gave a presentation on the anniversary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy from the Second Vatican Council.

“We want to continue to bring other voices in from our parishes and liturgy people from across the country,” says Poradek, who also serves as director of the National Shrine of St. Joseph at St. Norbert College, and as director of administration for the Norbertine Center for Spirituality at the abbey.

“Hopefully, we will continue to grow our opportunities to provide practical formation and reflection on our liturgical roles. That’s so important after COVID, and everything has been interrupted, to engage people for new roles and people to come back to roles in public worship.”

Training covers not only conducting public worship, but also why it should be done – both from a liturgical perspective and out of consideration for the spirituality of the individual. The institute’s activities are guided by the hope of the Second Vatican Council that “in the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy... full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else; for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the

true Christian spirit.”

“For Eucharistic ministers (extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion), it’s not only distributing the Host, but what does that mean to them in their own spirituality of feeding others and being disciples? That all ties into the work that we want to continue to explore. We want to go deeper into the meaning,” says Poradek. “If someone has been doing the ministry for years, it may become routine for them. We want to break that routine. There is value in bringing people together for formation at the same time.”

In addition to formation events and ministry training, the institute will provide support and development of the liturgical arts and sacred music, sacrament-focused retreats for clergy and laity, and seasonal prayer resources.

The institute will be able to serve as a resource in preparing ministers in the use of new liturgical texts as they’re issued by the Church. The release of the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, for instance, is anticipated over the next couple of years. The new liturgy will replace the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for those entering the Catholic Church.

“You have to go back to 1988 for when that was last changed,” says Poradek. “That will be a big topic in the Church, and a whole series of opportunities [for the institute].”

For now, all programming will be held at the abbey. Overnight retreats, a summer study week and program offerings in Spanish are all future goals for the institute.

“Everyone is welcome to the programs – people who are new to the ministries, people who have been in the ministries for decades and people in the parishes who are responsible for others – that train-the-trainer mentality. We want this to be a place where people know they can come for formation opportunities, to go deeper into the liturgy. There is so much to unpack.”

*More information about the Liturgical Institute of St. Norbert Abbey, including upcoming events, is available at [norbertines.org/institute](http://norbertines.org/institute).*

## National title for student referee

“It’s an uncommon thing to enjoy, but I love being a referee,” says **Bradshaw Morel '25**. The SNC first-year was recognized as one of two Young Referees of the Year for 2021 at the US Youth Soccer Awards Gala this past January in Kansas City, Mo.

The Milwaukee-area native, who’s double majoring in political science and business administration, was in his dorm room when he learned he’d won Wisconsin’s Young Referee of the Year title. The national award had seemed a long shot at first, but the dream came true for Morel and he celebrated with family over Thanksgiving break.

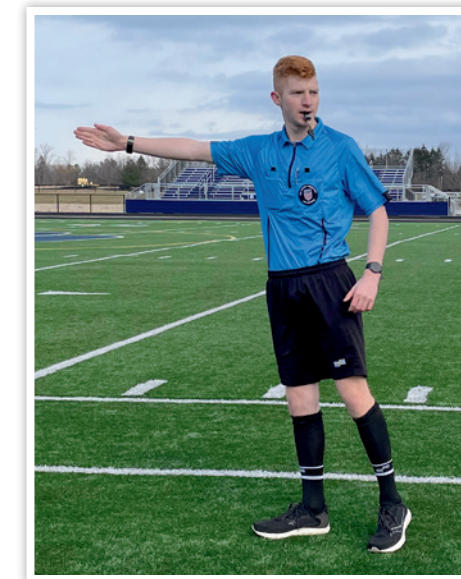
“It felt refreshing that the hard work and dedication I put in for the past seven years was noticed and appreciated,” he says.

Morel has been a soccer aficionado for most of his life. He started playing when he was six years old and has been refereeing pre-teen and teen level games since he was 12.

“I took a natural liking to soccer because I understood the complexity and beauty of it,” Morel says. “It’s just the game I have always known and loved.” What he loves the most about the worldwide sport? Its fluidity. It’s an experience that never truly stops, a relentless shift from defense to offense and back again.

Morel doesn’t stop either. He invests much of his free time in improving his referee skills and increasing his knowledge of the game. He reads rulebooks several times throughout the year and watches as many educational videos and documentaries as he can. Being recognized at a national level has only fueled his inner fire to get better.

Refereeing is not always a smooth experience. Morel has made mistakes and



seen complicated calls arise. But that’s all part of the game. “There are times when a hundred people are looking at you and expect you to make a call,” he says. “It’s uncomfortable, but getting used to that feeling helps you from freezing up.”

“As a player, I always dreamed of a thrilling game in front of a large crowd,” Morel explains. “I was refereeing a tournament playoff game three years ago, a close back-and-forth with constant action, and I had never felt more invested in a game.” Afterwards, several people complimented him on a job well done, including the coaches and a high-level referee in Wisconsin.

“Being a referee doesn’t always mean that everyone is screaming at you, but it does mean that no one is cheering for you on the sidelines,” Morel says. “It’s a thankless job, which is why receiving compliments means so much.”

Morel originally intended to play soccer at the collegiate level, but an ACL injury at the end of his senior year of high school caused him to rethink his options. He decided to join St. Norbert’s ROTC program instead and also plays intramural sports, including soccer, on campus. College hasn’t slowed his referee career down any, either. In fact, he refereed nearly every weekend last semester. He plans to upgrade his referee license and will start overseeing adult-level games.

### BUILDING BRIDGES



Low-income first-year students and sophomores are benefitting from a week of workshops to help them find out about a range of funding opportunities and connect with other sources of support.

The Building Bridges pilot program, offered the week before the spring semester began, included sessions on how to search and apply for scholarships and write personal statements. The pilot workshops were invitation only, with places for 30 students who had been identified as in financial need.

Building Bridges was created by **Avery Garcia** (Multicultural Student Services) and built on the experience of the college’s Proud to be First program for first-generation college students. Faculty and staff visited to give feedback on participants’ application materials and network over meals.

“We want to help students build those relationships that we know will help them be successful, perhaps leading to recommendations for grad school or internship opportunities,” Garcia says.

“I heard a lot from the first-gen students that they don’t always easily make the connections that other students seem to intuitively know how to make.”

Students who come to St. Norbert with financial aid need ongoing support to keep abreast of their funding options, Garcia says. “They might finish later or end up with a bigger debt, and we might be able to find them an external scholarship opportunity that could avoid some of that.”

# Unboxing

Today's student has embraced delivery and, no matter what they need, they're sending out for it. And we're not (just) talking pizza anymore. Furnishings, HelloFresh meal kits, feline accessories: They're in a van and on their way to SNC.

Furnishings? You mean, like futons? Fridges, even? Of course. Why schlepp your larger dorm-room needs from home all the way to school in the back of the family hatchback if, instead, you can FedEx them straight to campus. Most moving-to-college shopping is done online in any case, and it's as easy to enter 100 Grant St. in that address field as it is your parents' home. Less strain on dad's back, too!

Feline accessories? Well, Etsy makes a nice study break in the middle of exams, and (online) retail therapy is available right there in your res hall. And sometimes you just need a hard-to-source item – a special gift, a prop for your Knight Theatre production, material for your research project, zooplankton, a sea star packed in preservative ... Yes, science, too, depends on shipping. (In fact, it's FedEx that, with all care and respect, brings to campus those cadavers on which the next generation of doctors will hone its human-anatomy skills.)

And then there are the care packages, of course. One SNC grandma even boxed up a month's worth of Halloween treats in a specially crafted crate: **Chase Cassel '25** and his room-mate enjoyed them on the daily. Some things never change. ♣



*SCIENCE!*

Birdcages and Madagascar hissing cockroaches, equally, arrive by mail. Students of **Stephen Ferguson** and **Adam Brandt** (Biology) will be using them in their several research partnerships.



*NOM. NOM*

Snacks help you study harder! **Jacinta Maslanka '24** orders her ramen in multi-packs; **Alyssa Peters '25** has a mom who was kind enough to send her a hot-chocolate care package "just in time for St. Nick and preparing for finals."

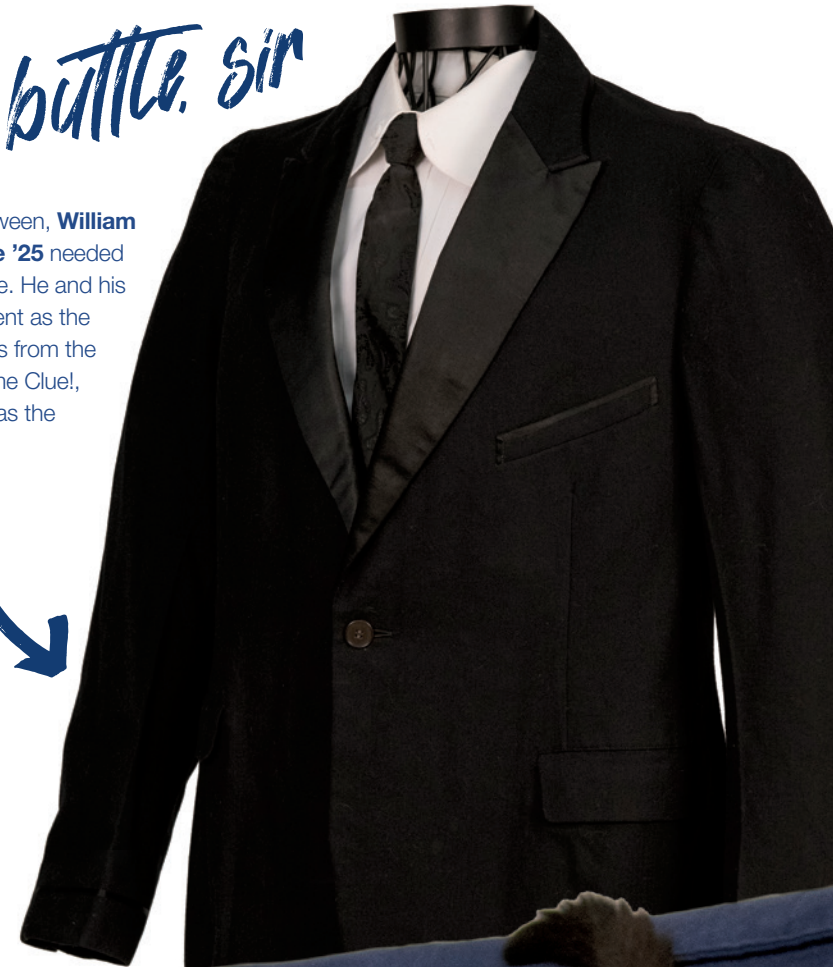


*Adorbs*

Roommates **Valerie Cohen '25** and **Daphne Johnson '24** went shopping online. Those cowboy boots spelled country feet; the Baby Yoda plushie was purchased as a gift.

*I buttle, sir*

For Halloween, **William Salentine '25** needed a costume. He and his friends went as the characters from the boardgame Clue!, and he was the butler.



*MEOW!*

Oliver's human is **Amelia Wilcox '23**, who unboxed new duds for him last semester. **Lily Maier '24**, student worker in the magazine office, lent us her new folding sofa (also delivered!) so Oliver would have something to sit on for his photo op.



# THE FORECAST IS BRIGHT

Work by student fellows at St. Norbert College helps transform the economic future of northeast Wisconsin

Eric Schreiber, Associate Editor



Marc Schaffer (Economics) with student fellows.

Nine students are finishing a year's worth of projects analyzing data and forecasting. They're not solving course prompts or hypothetical questions, but working side-by-side with regional companies to plot future business strategies.

They're helping organizations plan their next expansion; compiling data in support of a large investment; and uncovering compelling reasons for others to invest. The students are fellows of St. Norbert College's Center for Business & Economic Analysis (CBEA).

## Curriculum meets application

The CBEA, led by **Marc Schaffer** (Economics), provides paid fellowships to St. Norbert students that give them the chance to apply the principles and strategies learned in classes to aid local and regional businesses.

Schaffer says, "I was getting asked to do a lot of stuff in the community in terms of presentations and talks on the economy, and it started to dawn on me ... that students could do this work and have these experiences."

It began with volunteer opportunities for students. The first project was an economic study for the Green Bay Botanical Garden led by longtime faculty member **Sandra Odorzynski** (Economics, Emeritus) to secure funding for an outdoor event space. **Nicole Kozlovsky '16** was invited to help with research. Schaffer says: "There was a kick-off press conference that was supposed to happen to tell the study to the news media, and Sandy got really sick and couldn't go, so this 20-year-old went and handled the news media by herself. For our first project we had a student presenting to the press."

That moment set the tone for the future of the center, with students taking ownership over the projects. The program transitioned into a practicum course before evolving into the model it follows today: a team of consultants who model, forecast and distill data for regional organizations.

## So, what is forecasting?

Things are rarely concrete or definitive when dealing with models and forecasts. "We work with the organization to get a feel for what their numbers are," says Schaffer, "how many people they employ, how much revenue, operating expenses they incur and what kind of income is generated from what they do in the region. And then we have some software on the backend that we use to do some analysis based off that." The CBEA team also works hard to uncover the social factors in play.

"We're doing things that have real impact. ... We got approached by Shoreline Credit Union in Manitowoc in 2016 and they were trying to figure out where to grow and expand." Schaffer worked with a student to recommend where they should go. Shoreline now plans to build a new branch in Green Bay, in large part due to the research furnished by SNC.

## Only one of its kind

Through the CBEA's work, SNC is a member of the Association for University Business & Economic Research. Schaffer calls SNC's involvement unique. Many of the other members are larger universities where their centers are filled, not with students, but with salaried research professionals.

Schaffer, who as director holds the Dale & Ruth Michels Endowed Chair, says he believes the CBEA builds on excess capacity: "We have a lot of students doing hypothetical assignments, and that needs to happen. But at some point, if we could use that time to solve problems for the local economy, that gives [students] the real-world opportunity and helps the community.

"That's really the mission of the center," he says.

Barb LaMue, president of New North Inc. whose mission is to "be a catalyst for regional prosperity for all through collaborative action," echoes that sentiment. She describes business, education and research as the triage of what you need to be successful: "You need to make sure you start with the research to make good, data-



## MAJOR BOOST

St. Norbert's new data analytics major, a collaboration between disciplines in the Schneider School of Business & Economics and the natural sciences, fills a workforce gap in the area and will help students reach new heights in their forecasting and modeling abilities.

Breakthrough's director of data science, **Andy Martinelli '02** (above), says, "The CBEA and the pivot to the analytics major is going to benefit not just St. Norbert, but the area itself. I have not seen anything like that at any other institution in the area." When Martinelli looks at applications from new young professionals in the area something is missing, he says, and what St. Norbert is doing should address some of that. Data analytics grads can consider careers as geneticists, biostatisticians, survey researchers and quality engineers.

"I couldn't be prouder to be a St. Norbert alum when I see the stuff that Marc's doing with the CBEA," says Martinelli. "I have very high hopes and expectations for the CBEA in the future: not just a jewel of the region but something looked on [in the same manner] statewide and in the Midwest."

Endowment funds like those that support the CBEA and the Dale & Ruth Michels Endowed Chair enable St. Norbert to attract and retain outstanding faculty who can drive initiatives like the Center for Business & Economic Analysis. St. Norbert's Support What Matters campaign, launched this spring (see page 7), will focus on the development of the college's endowment.

**“We’re creating these pathways for students to get real-world experience with the stuff we’re doing and teaching. The community partner, business or local nonprofit, gets high-quality research that’s used to make decisions. And St. Norbert gets to function as the middle-man, helping to facilitate this partnership between everybody in spirit of the mission.”**

— MARC SCHAFER  
(ECONOMICS)

driven decisions. ... And this is our workforce that is being trained at St. Norbert College. Having that business involvement that will provide them with careers.”

Schaffer adds, “One of the long-standing conversations we’ve had is how to keep really good talent here. People that come up here and go back to Chicago, Milwaukee or Madison – how do we keep them? ... You’re getting these students connected to some of these companies and nonprofits doing project work with pathways of networking that give them opportunities that might get some of our really good students to stay in the area long-term.”

The size and location of the northeast Wisconsin region keeps talent retention top of mind but has also been fortuitous for St. Norbert. Green Bay is an interesting place for economic development. There is a strikingly diversified manufacturing industry, access to the Great Lakes, an NFL team ... all in a closer-knit community than in a big city like Chicago. “There’s a regional aspect of this that makes it really special,” says Schaffer.

### Funding and growing the center

Community partners who saw the growth of the CBEA and spotted its potential are now helping fund its efforts through an endowment created with assistance from SNC’s **Amy Kunding** (Community Engagement). The center’s first long-term partner was Breakthrough, a transportation technology and market-insights provider now on its second three-year contract with the CBEA. The connection grew out of the shared vision of Schaffer and Breakthrough’s director of data science, **Andy Martinelli ’02**.

“You’re trying to leverage the fresh thinking, what are the new things being taught. ... And there’s also a talent pipeline that understands our business,” says Martinelli. “It felt like a natural fit. ... We’ve done a few projects now and hired a gentleman we did a project with, **Peyton Jack ’20**. [This SNC grad] is now on the applied knowledge team.”

In the very first project with Breakthrough, Jack learned to write code at a post-graduate level and worked with nuanced statistical analyses. “We gave him a skillset, the exact skillset they needed in the field they wanted. They were funding our endowment and they got a great employee,” says Schaffer.

Jack says that hard skills like learning the programming language R changed his career trajectory. “That was a great tool ... I would never have any experience working in this programming language if I didn’t work for the CBEA. I wasn’t a computer science



### PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

**Marc Schaffer** views the CBEA as the perfect conduit from education to profession: “I want to create opportunities to put people in positions to succeed. And I think that’s what the CBEA is really trying to do. ... People are going to notice them,” he says.

**Alexa Schulze ’17** (left) worked on a project for The Farmory in which she helped tell the non-profit’s mission story and map out food deserts in Brown County. She also presented at the CBEA’s annual State of the Economy event, where her ability to relay information succinctly caught the attention of a representative from Wipfli Financial. After years in which Wipfli kept in contact with Schulze, she ultimately joined the firm as a financial advisor. Schulze says CBEA experience helped her build confidence “because you are already doing really good applicable work in the community instead of just

feeling like it’s just for class. I hope other people get inspired to set out and do whatever comes their way, and not be afraid of things that they don’t think they’re qualified for.”

For **Nicole Kozlovsky ’16**, now a CPA in the Green Bay area, the project work she did with Schaffer gave her the opportunity to grow as a speaker and build a strong network while still in college. She says, “The CBEA was one of the most beneficial aspects of my time at St. Norbert ... pushing my limits.”

Working with CBEA fellows and watching them present, New North president Barb LaMue says, “I think they’re business savvy. They can very clearly boil down information into powerful nuggets that people can take away with them. ... They’re able to relate at a very professional level.”

major; it honestly seems like a lofty goal. But Marc did a great job; we learned it together. ... Saying yes to things that you really don’t understand really is the best way to move forward.

“When you can go to an employer and say, ‘Yes, I have these skills.’ ... Multiple times on the job I’ll say ‘Yeah, I did something similar at St. Norbert.’ It opens up a lot of different opportunities on the job. You get connected with people in different areas on different teams and you develop this niche that you wouldn’t have otherwise had.”



**Amy Kunding (Community Engagement) works with the team.**

Schaffer thinks there’s no better way to understand how something works until there is a real-world problem in front of you to solve. “So, we’re creating these pathways for students to get real-world experience with the stuff we’re doing and teaching,” he says. “The community partner, business or local nonprofit gets high-quality research that’s used to make decisions. And St. Norbert gets to function as the middle-man helping to facilitate this partnership between everybody, in spirit of the mission.”

### Forecasting the forecast

For Schaffer, the future goal is for the CBEA to take a lead role in researching economic policy to solve issues in its local, regional and statewide communities. In Martinelli’s eyes, the center is primed to achieve that goal. He says, “The CBEA is a good demonstration of being able to adapt to the real world. So now you’re getting the projects that people in the area and industry need solved.”

Any sophomore, junior or senior can apply for a fellowship; the opportunity is not restricted to business or economics majors. In the future, the hope is to build the program out with graphic designers and writers to house more robust capabilities. It’s about getting people to say yes and find passion in their work.

Schaffer says: “People don’t realize the abilities and potential they have until they’re actually put in a position to do it. That’s where the amazing growth with these students starts. ... Giving a presentation to a group of professionals is different than your professor and classmates. It makes your work real; it makes it matter more. They might make a million-dollar decision using your data and results.” ♣



### THE BUSINESS AT HAND

Among the large-scale projects completed by the Center for Business & Economic Analysis in its first half-decade:

- Economic impact studies for the Green Bay Children’s Museum and an expansion to the CP Center in Allouez, Wis.
- Study on food insecurity and hydroponic farming with The Farmory and how to apply hydroponics to aid refugee camps.
- Shoreline Credit Union expansion model and forecast.
- Assessment of the economic impact of the sovereign Oneida Nation, presented to Wisconsin’s lieutenant governor.
- Collaboration with an architect and planner to redevelop the current site of the Green Bay Correctional Institute, reviewed at state government level.
- Two three-year contracts with Breakthrough, of Green Bay, focused on transportation strategy and insights.
- Statistical analysis of PCBs in the Fox River.
- Annual State of the Economy presented to northeast Wisconsin’s business community.
- Annual Money Smart Week.
- Economic commentary and thought leadership provided confidentially for a publicly traded company based in Chicago.
- Presentation on transportation logistics and supply chain to Peter Barca, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, and Craig Thompson, secretary of the Department of Transportation.

# Open door policy

By Rob Kaiser



Photos courtesy Kohler Co.

Often, late at night, after many if not most at Kohler Company had gone home and their offices were dark, one light still burned. Happening by the office of **Christine Loose '88** on one of these occasions, Shawn Dortman stopped in for a chat. “It didn’t always focus on the challenges of work,” Dortman recalls. The two discussed kids. Weekend plans. New purses. But Dortman knew job-related concerns were never far from Loose’s mind.

The year was 2010, and Loose had recently switched from the plumbing division at Kohler, where she oversaw consumer customer relations, to the company’s hospitality sector. Chosen for the job – resident manager of The American Club resort – Loose had to figure out a constructive way to at once chart a course and cultivate relationships. That made for anxious times. “I knew what I was up against,” she says. “The biggest risk I took was transitioning from Kohler plumbing to hospitality. Although I worked a few hospitality jobs in high school and college, I did not study hospitality, nor did I work my way up in hospitality. Many of my new colleagues were betting against me.”

But Loose rose to the occasion.

“Christine excels at learning and loves new challenges,” says her husband, Bob Loose. “She knew for sure that she didn’t have the industry experience many had, but she was more than willing to learn, and accept input from experts and those around her.”

Loose started by picking up a bottle of Windex. She set about learning, hands-on, every job at the hotel. “What Christine did especially well is, she went in and got her hands dirty with unbelievable, rigid consistency – making beds, running the vacuum cleaner,” says Dortman. “She really established strong street-credibility with the staff, and was relentless about it.”

## ‘It’s like you’re welcoming Christ’

This is a story of two cultures – those of two storied institutions – and the woman in whom they converge each and every day. There’s St. Norbert, where the practice of radical, or deep-rooted, hospitality in the monastic tradition is intrinsic to the college’s mission. There’s Kohler, with its

own unique brand, tradition of excellence and similar commitment to community and hospitality. And there’s Loose, an SNC trustee who graduated from the college with a degree in math; earned a general manager certificate in hospitality administration and management from Cornell University in 2011; and has spent the past 20 years working at the Wisconsin-based Kohler, where she has risen swiftly and is now vice president of lodging and wellness.

A decade ago, as Loose navigated her moment of reckoning at Kohler, she drew strength not only from the goodwill of frontline employees who appreciated her learning their jobs by doing them. She also drew strength from the support of her family, including her husband of now 29 years and their son and daughter, now grown. She drew strength from what Dortman calls “her big, beautiful personality,” a personality that so daunted Loose’s shy husband when they met that he let a go-between ask for her phone number. And she drew strength from a faith reinforced at St. Norbert and the radical hospitality she learned there.

Radical hospitality as a Christian concept stems from the Biblical injunction to welcome the stranger at the gate. In a world currently struggling to deal with the largest movement of peoples in human history, radical hospitality may seem just that – radical. But the monastic tradition is intrinsic to the Norbertine mission and culture as it is to those of other religious orders.

Norbertine hospitality can be traced back to the earliest days of the order. Abbeys welcomed travelers and all strangers with a meal and a place to sleep. “In the ancient world, hospitality was one of the most sacred obligations of the people,” **William Hyland**, founding director of the college’s Center for Norbertine Studies, told this magazine in 2008. “When you think about the roots of the Norbertines, when you think about monasticism, it’s central. Every guest you receive, it’s like you’re welcoming Christ.”

## Keeping an eye on the Packers

Loose got an early taste of the hospitality industry while serving on the student-



**Christine Loose '88** is the vice president of lodging and wellness for Kohler Co. She manages hospitality operations and growth for The American Club, the Inn on Woodlake hotels, Lodge Kohler in Wisconsin; the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews, Scotland; and more.

## Radical hospitality

The monastic tradition calls for welcoming compassionately and unconditionally all outlanders. In a world riven by distrust of the other, radical hospitality may seem just that: radical. The phrase in fact derives from the Latin word *radix*, meaning “root.” Monastic hospitality is rooted in the founding charisms of the Norbertine and many other religious orders. “If we could come to think of all people as our guests, our world would be a very different place,” writes Aaron Raverty, a Benedictine of St. John’s Abbey, Minn. “St. Benedict took special care that the poor be noticed as guests. Listen to what he says in chapter 66: ‘As soon as anyone knocks, or a poor man calls out, he [the porter] replies, ‘Thanks be to God,’ or ‘Your blessing, please.’ Then, with all the gentleness that comes from the fear of God, he provides a prompt answer with the warmth of love.”




### Hospitably disposed

A coffee shop. A brewery. A bar and grill. A vendor. And, of course, a frozen-custard establishment.

From Oregon to Florida, from wine bars to bistros, St. Norbert College graduates have made their mark in the hospitality industry, with 41 in seven states self-listed as owning food-and-beverage enterprises on the college's still-growing network of alumni-owned businesses. That amounts to about 16 percent of the more than 250 companies listed on the network.

Most of the businesses are in Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Illinois, but they also range into the Northwest, where **Steven Sinkler '83** owns the Wine Shack, in Cannon Beach, Oregon, and the Deep South, where **John Connelly '89** owns Georgia Spice LLC, in Atlanta.

 More at [snc.edu/alumni/directory](https://snc.edu/alumni/directory)

staffed security team at St. Norbert, which in the summer worked the dorm where the Green Bay Packers stayed during training camp. The Packers used St. Norbert classrooms for their evening playbook review. "We provided the babysitter, the security, just made sure nobody went in or out," Loose says.

Though Loose at that point had no plans to pursue a career in hospitality, the faith that would ease her eventual transition into the industry and help her succeed in it continued to grow, she says. "I believe in kindness small and big. Holding a door open. Saying thank you to anyone who provides me customer service. And taking my turn – no skipping allowed. These are little things I do every day with the hope that I will inspire others to be kind."

Loose thinks of radical hospitality as "the simple act of being kind and putting others' needs first." She says, "At work, I regularly tell my team 'family first.' The hospitality industry is demanding, and often we work long days and weeks. But if we don't carve out time to attend a family member's concert, sporting event or activity, those moments are gone forever."

Bob Loose benefited immediately from Christine's compassion – and from his own family's gift of hospitality. Meeting her at his parents' wedding anniversary, he was attracted to her at first sight, he says. "But I was very shy and was too afraid to ask her for her phone number."

"I did, though, keep going on and on to my family members that I really wanted to ask her. But I kept finding a reason not to." Finally a family member offered to serve as intermediary. "My aunt Chris told me she was going to ask her for me."

"How old is he," Christine asked Chris, looking across the room at Bob, who looked young for his age.

"To my surprise," he says, "(Christine) gave (his aunt) the number and said I should call her...."

"Christine told me later that the only reason she gave her number to my aunt is because my family was so nice all evening."

### 'A gracious nature'

Loose, who before working at Kohler was the classified advertising

call-center manager at the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, began her career at the Wisconsin-based plumbing-fixtures company in customer service after answering a blind ad that said, "Calling all Call Center Managers."

Today Loose oversees The American Club and the Inn on Woodlake hotels, in Kohler, Wis.; Riverbend private membership, also in Kohler; Lodge Kohler, in Green Bay, Wis.; and the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews, Scotland. Dortman says: "She came from a polar-opposite industry ... and has been incredibly successful. She's incredibly smart."

Having earned the respect of many at Kohler, and in her new industry at large, doesn't mean Loose's job is a breeze now. Most weeks she works up to 55 hours. And last year was hard. "2021 was an exceptionally tough year in hospitality due to staffing shortages," she says. Complicating matters, Kohler hosted the 43rd Ryder Cup.

Like every life, Loose's is bumpy with little problems, too. But many of the problems Loose faces are good ones – those of her own making through the force of her success. Kohler's American Club web page bears a note that the hotel is "experiencing unprecedented call volume." Loose explains: "Interest in golf is at an all-time high, because golf is viewed as Covid-safe, being an outdoor activity. And the Ryder Cup placed our resort on the global stage."

But Loose is warm and has an easy laugh. When she met the challenge of transferring to an industry that didn't seem to want her at first, the experience didn't harden her, Dortman says. In a professional moment of truth, Loose, practicing a kind of radical hospitality, managed to remain herself, and then some.

"This sounds really strange, but as she's gone higher up from a promotional standpoint, I really think she's softened from a gracious nature. Her shoulders have softened," Dortman says. "She walks a bit slower."

"If the experience had hardened her, in this industry, that would have backfired. ♣

## Law students state their case for SNC



St. Norbert College continues to be well-represented by alums in law schools around the country, including at some of the nation's most prestigious. Backgrounds, specialties and aspirations vary, but many trace their preparedness and love for law to their time at SNC.

**Catherine Nowaczyk '19** is in her final semester at Georgetown University Law School. She says, "When I got to Georgetown, I really did feel that I had a leg up. The law courses at St. Norbert are taught exactly as first year classes in law school."

"They both use the Socratic method of teaching; you're expected to know your stuff before you get into the classroom and participate in a dialogue with the professors and be questioned without prior warning."

She specializes in corporate law and will return to the Midwest as a junior associate in the Chicago offices of law firm King & Spalding.

The law-school classroom can be intimidating. "You have to start from scratch and relearn how to think," says University of Wisconsin law student **Karen Suarez Jimenez '20**.

Suarez Jimenez left Oaxaca, Mexico, with her family at the age of three without documentation. She says, "I had not even expected college to be an option, being from an impoverished immigrant and indigenous family."

She planned to teach high-school Spanish but

changed majors junior year with the support of **Charley Jacobs** (Political Science) and multicultural student services director **Bridgit Martin**. Although not a U.S. citizen, she will be able to practice law under the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA.

"I could not have received a better preparation for law school than the guidance I received at St. Norbert. It helped me so much to overcome the hurdles that a first-generation law student faces: the impostor syndrome, the language barrier – I still translate things in my head."

Suarez Jimenez works with the Immigrant Justice Clinic representing clients in immigration-related issues. She's exploring specializing in indigenous law and contracts and torts. "So much is unknown, but a lot of doors are opening."

**Hunter Van Asten '19** (above) and **Elizabeth Totzke '19** are both in their final semester at Notre Dame Law School. Totzke says, "St. Norbert fostered my love for the law." She has secured a position as clerk to two federal judges when she graduates while Van Asten has been hired as a litigation associate at the Milwaukee headquarters of Godfrey & Kahn.

They both represented SNC in competitive mock trials which Totzke says "helps you tease out aspects of the law" while encouraging collegiality and camaraderie.

### Experience first

Fifteen St. Norbert alums matriculated into law schools in 2021. "We offer the right kinds of courses and the right kinds of experiences for students, such as our Mock Trial which exposes students to the practice of being a litigator," says

**Charley Jacobs** (Political Science).

Jacobs says, "In a smaller college like ours, students who are considering applying to law school have the opportunity to meet with a faculty member one-on-one and discuss the right kinds of questions to ask."

Another benefit, the SNC pre-law faculty includes **Judge Marc Hammer**, a sitting circuit court judge. Prospective law school students can benefit greatly from personal contact with him, Jacobs says.

"It's largely thanks to Judge Hammer that we can offer students a series of internships in the local courthouse, prosecutor's office, public defender's office and local law firms so they can get their feet wet in the law before they head to law school."



## New family gathering planned for April

The Black Student Union (BSU) holds a cookout for its current members every spring. When planning began for this year's celebration, members of the student org asked themselves, 'Why stop there?' This year's event is on its way to becoming something of a family dinner to be shared by both current and former multicultural students of SNC.

BSU president **Daijah Brown '22** (above) says: "This year, we thought it would be nice to have our old alumni hang out with us so they can meet all the new BSU kids too. And we're involving the bigger group of multicultural kids, too."

The BSU has been working with **Tori McNeal '15**, new program coordinator for black student support, as they plan for the April event. The alumni office has joined in, helping the students track down addresses for potential guests. Alumni director **Billy Falk '08** says his team enjoys facilitating alumni events prompted by special connections and has helped support programs for other student orgs, including Knight Theatre and CC Hams. The BSU gathering, though, may be the first initiated by current students with their predecessors specifically in mind.

Brown, a business management major and Green Knight track athlete, says: "I'm really looking forward to just seeing the people here. Through the years at SNC we've had a nice group of multicultural students. It would just be nice to see everyone coming back and enjoying one another's company."

Catch more details about the event on the BSU Instagram account, @snc\_bsu73, or connect with the group at [snc.edu/studentorg/blackstudu.html](https://snc.edu/studentorg/blackstudu.html).

## Births/ Adoptions

**1999 Trevor** and **Paloma Peterson**, Chicago, a son, Wren Joaquin, July 21, 2021.

**2003 Meghan (Umphres)** and **Chad Leatherman**, Madison, Wis., a son, Burke Walker, Aug. 25, 2021. He joins sister Florie, 7, brother Micah, 5, and sister Adele, 2.

**2006 Mary Spadoni** and **Jonathan Kay**, Astoria, N.Y., a daughter, Julia Miriam, May 13, 2021.

**2006 Andrew McIlree** and **Sarah Quinn**, Minneapolis, a son, Reilly Joseph, June 14, 2021. He joins sister Rowan, 2.

**2007 Nina (Nolan) '07 M.L.S. '21** and **Shane Rouse**, Bonduel, Wis., May 20, 2021, a daughter, Katherine Grace. She joins brothers Finley, 6, and Owen, 3.

**2007 Christina (Klement)** and **Greg Weichman**, Pewaukee, Wis., a son, Bennett James, May 24, 2021. He joins sister Lucille, 3.

**2007 Jamie (Baumhardt)** and **Ryan Gueller**, Fond du Lac, Wis., a daughter, Adele Rose, June 4, 2021.

**2007 Allison (Rockendorf)** and **Robbie Lautenbach**, Egg Harbor, Wis., a daughter, Harper Rae, Aug. 3, 2021. She joins sister Delilah.

**2008 Lauren (Tazioli)** and **Nick Patrick**, De Pere, a daughter, Mae Louis, May 20, 2021. She joins two sisters.

**2008 Linda (Gruber)** and **Eric Gustke**, Green Bay, a daughter, Payton Jean, May 28, 2021. She joins brother Bennett.

**2008 Jill (Warner)** and **Jordan Micklow '06**, Buffalo Grove, Ill., a son, Max Brock, June 26, 2021. He joins brothers Jack, 6, Miles, 3, and Emmett, 1.

**2009 Emma (Perman)** and **Kurtis Hayden**, St. Paul, Minn., a daughter, Adriana, April 4, 2021. She joins brother Liam, 2.

**2009 Kayte (O'Brien)** and **Steve Sleep '09**, Wayne, Ill., a son, Nate, April 22, 2021. He joins brother MJ, 7, and sister Caroline, 5.

**2009 Ryan** and **Samantha Peterson**, De Pere, a son, Brooks Daniel Ervin, June 21, 2021. He joins sister Aubrey, 5, and brother Everett, 2.

**2010 Elizabeth Holt** and **Justin Cartier '10**, Oshkosh, Wis., a daughter, Olivia, June 7, 2021. She joins brother Lucas, 3.

**2010 Katie (Thiel)** and **Barry Adams**, Appleton, Wis., twins, a daughter, Grace, and a son, Henry, July 22, 2021.

**2010 Kelly (Luebke)** and **Johnathan Whitcomb**, Green Bay, a daughter, Annalyse, April 2021. She joins sisters Adalynn and Autumn.

**2011 Chelsea (Potier)** and **William Lancelle '11**, Dodgeville, Wis., a son, Leo, June 30, 2021.

**2011 Kelsy Faust-Kubale** and **Rick Faust**, Oshkosh, Wis., a son, Aksel Armin, Aug. 11, 2021.

**2012 Michelle (Michels)** and **Colin Finn '10**, Mequon, Wis., a son, Brady William, April 28, 2021. He joins brothers Conor, 4, and Jack, 2.

**2012 Lauren (Senour)** and **Gary LeDoux**, a son, Vince Gary, June 1, 2021. He joins sister Brynn and brother Troy.

**2012 Kelly (Van Handel)** and **Cal Kanowitz**, Neenah, Wis., a son, Hudson Beau, June 8, 2021. He joins sister Everly and brother Carter, 2.

**2013 Dayna (Nell)** and **Andrew Pekarek**, Algoma, Wis., a daughter, Ayden, Oct. 17, 2021.

**2014 Melissa (Diederich)** and **Nick Plank '14**, Oconto Falls, Wis., a daughter, Emily, April 6, 2021.

**2014 Morgan (Heim)** and **Michael Linssen**, De Pere, a daughter, Blair Elinor, April 7, 2021. She joins sister Kinsley, 2.

**2014 Karissa (Kaiser)** and **Tyler Seidl '13**, Luxemburg, Wis., a son, Jay Joseph, April 16, 2021. He joins brother Ethan, 3.

**2014 Katie (Stewart)** and **Joe Schlueter '14**, De Pere, a son, Jack William, May 22, 2021.

**2015 Kayla (Stuckey)** and **Joe Bartel '15**, Fond du Lac, Wis., a son, Oliver Joseph, July 3, 2021.

**2015 Rebecca (Liming)** and **Nicholas Sanderfoot**, Eau Claire, Wis., a son, Norbert James, Aug. 3, 2021. He joins sister Naomi, 2.

**2016 Kathryn (Wagner)** and **Adam Steege**, Green Bay, a daughter, Audrey, May 18, 2021.

**2018 Christina (Greco)** and **Dan Burke '17**, Colorado Springs, Colo., a daughter, Nora Jean, March 27, 2021.

**2018 Alexa (Brill)** and **Joshua Schulze**,

Green Bay, a daughter, Harmony, April 14, 2021.

**2019 Kayleen (Smeaton)** and **Anthony Reinke**, Portsmouth, Va., a daughter, Quinn Elizabeth, July 5, 2021.

## Marriages

**2005 Karen O'Connell** and **Jeremy Burkhardt**, June 19, 2021. They live in Waukesha, Wis.

**2008 Jacqueline Koehl** and **Alex Piazza**, April 24, 2021. They live in Grand Chute, Wis.

**2013 Brianna Simkowski** and **Nick Weaver**, May 7, 2021. They live in Chicago.

**2013 Jessica Kasten** and **Dane McCullough**, June 5, 2021. They live in Milwaukee.

**2014 Peter Ostergaard** and **Christina Rasmussen**, April 3, 2021. They live in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**2014 Alyssa Thermos** and **Rachel Nagengast '14**, May 8, 2021. They live in Arlington Heights, Ill.

**2014 Hillary Derks** and **Greg Selner**, June 5, 2021. They live in Allouez, Wis.

**2015 Emily McGuire** and **Derek Donohue '13**, June 26, 2021. They live in Pulaski, Wis.

**2016 Megan Santi** and **Nick Gibson**, June 4, 2021. They live in Hobart, Wis.

**2017 Megan Bizub** and **Sean Berendes '16**, June 19, 2021. They live in De Pere.

**2017 Melissa Mas** and **Christopher Hoeflinger**, Aug. 7, 2021. They live in Gurnee, Ill.

## Deaths

**1940 Lester Berns**, of Sturgeon Bay, Wis., died Sept. 12, 2021, at the age of 103. Berns served in the U.S. Air Force during WWII, achieving the rank of captain. He, along with his brother, owned Berns Brothers' Lumber Co. He is survived by four children.

**1949 Donald Beno**, of Kaukauna, Wis., died June 19, 2021, at the age of 96. He served in the U.S. Army during WW II and the Korean War. He worked in computer science roles at the Fort Howard Mill, Harnishfeger and Thilmany. He was also vice president of finance and operation at Fox Valley Technical College prior to his retirement. He is survived by two children.

**1949 Thomas Rondou**, of Madison, Wis., died Sept. 18, 2021, at the age of 94. He worked as a statistician for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

**1950 Reginald Saner**, of Boulder, Colo., died April 19, 2021, at the age of 92. He served in the U.S. Army. A poet, he worked as a professor of English at the University of Colorado. He is survived by his wife, Anne, and one child.

**1951 Myron "Mike" Mommaerts**, of Oneida, Wis., died May 1, 2021, at the age of 95. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WW II. He worked for the Brown County (Wis.) Highway Department, ascending to highway director. He is survived by two children.

**1951 Robert Gille**, of Rockford, Ill., died June 10, 2021, at the age of 86. He worked for the

Diocese of Madison, Wis., for more than 30 years before working for Christiansen-Simms Funeral Home in Rockford. He is survived by his brother-in-law, nieces and nephews.

**1952 Michael Stoffel**, of Kewaunee, Wis., died June 18, 2021, at the age of 89. He served in the U.S. Navy for 26 years and retired as a captain. He held several roles aboard Navy submarines: in submarine missile programs, undersea surveillance, and command of the Naval Electronics Engineering Center in Portsmouth, Va. After retirement, he became a certified appraiser of personal property and fine arts. He is survived by his wife, Marietta, and five children.

**1954 Charles Gardon**, of Peshtigo, Wis., died May 30, 2021, at the age of 93. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked for Gardon Manufacturing Inc. in Menominee, Mich., before working for the Peshtigo Times as editor and later vice president. He is survived by 10 children.

**1954 Wade Neufeld**, of Antigo, Wis., died Oct. 15, 2021, at the age of 89. He first worked for Florsheim Shoes and Baskins Department Store in Chicago before managing the Family Shoe Store in Antigo. In retirement, he worked for Lakeside Pharmacy. He is survived by seven children, including **Teresa '82**, **Jane '85** and **Kate '90**.

**1956 Dr. Philip Bouressa**, of Kimberly, Wis., and The Villages, Fla., died June 29, 2021, at the age of 87. He worked as a dentist at his own practice, Bouressa Dental, in Kimberly. He is survived by his wife, Birdie, and three children, including **Tim '84**.

**1956 James Romanski**, of Wausau, Wis., died Sept. 19, 2021, at the age of 87. He served in the U.S. Army Artillery. He worked for the Upjohn Company for more than three decades as a pharmaceutical sales representative. He is survived by his wife, **Virginia (Bradtke) '57**, and two children.

**1957 George Motiff**, of Louisville, Ky., died May 15, 2021, at the age of 86. He held a position at Ernst & Ernst as an accountant before working for Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Kentucky, later becoming CFO and executive vice president of finance. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and three children.

**1957 Myron "Mike" Hauser**, of De Pere, died July 25, 2021, at the age of 85. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. He worked as an engineer for Allen Bradley for more than 30 years. Along with **Francis "Fran" Junio** (see obituary notice below), he was a member of the alumni office's Third Thursday Breakfast Club, a group of St. Norbert alumni who participated in ROTC in the late 50s and 60s. Hauser is survived by his wife, **Maggie (Hess) '59**, and three children.

**1958 Richard Vail**, of Sault Ste Marie, Mich., died Jan. 14, 2021, at the age of 86. A football player, Vail contributed to St. Norbert's first undefeated season in 1957. He served in the U.S. Army 6th Cavalry Division during the Korean War. He began his civilian career with 7-Up Bottling and the Coca-Cola Company, and was later employed at GTE Directories in facilities management. He is survived by his wife, Dee, and five children.

**1958 Bob Daun**, of Madison, Wis., died June 16, 2021, at the age of 84. He worked for the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation in Madison, specializing in analytical methods development for detection of extreme low levels of pesticides and the products of their metabolism. He rose to become director of research. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and four children.

**1958 Frank Lauerman III**, of Marinette, Wis., died Oct. 12, 2021, at the age of 86. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He worked for Lauerman Brothers Department Store in Marinette and was the owner and operator of three different radio stations: WLOT (1300) AM, WNAM (570) AM and WLST (95.1) FM.

Lauerman was also an officer and director of several businesses, including the Lauerman Brothers Company, Madigan-Lauerman Real Estate Company, Lauerman's of Manistique, Mich., Burns Department Stores of Mich., Marinette Knitting Mills and Harmon Knitwear. He is survived by four children.

**1959 Thomas Quevillon**, of Springfield, Ill., died June 1, 2021, at the age of 87. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He worked for Texaco Inc. for more than 37 years before retiring. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary, and three children.

**1959 Paul du Vair**, of Madison, Wis., died Aug. 22, 2021, at the age of 83. He served in the U.S. Army's 84th Infantry Division. He initially worked for the American Foundation for Biological Research before beginning a 52-year career teaching science in

## Fran Volz '82



## Makes art larger than life

*A love for sculpting inspired by snow and an eye for 3-D art set Fran Volz '82 on a journey filled with grand imagination and colossal figures.*

**Artisan's hands** I first dabbled in art by doodling cartoons at school, sketching at random and building pet mice mazes in my dad's woodshop – hand tools only, no power tools! I was always good with my hands, but it wasn't until I shaped a Smurf snowman in Chicago in 1987 that I considered a career in sculpting.

**For the love of bronze** There's something beautiful and historic about seeing the human form modeled in bronze. I was fortunate enough to get formal training in the bronzing process while working as an apprentice to a sculptor in the Chicago area. I've made a number of pieces for both public and private collections, but one that sticks out is a Greek god model called "The Chiseler."

**Snow, straw & Styrofoam** I sculpt in a number of mediums, from snow to straw to wood. I'm currently finishing work on a pair of robots, made mainly from fiberglass, with a friend who's an electrical engineer. The idea came from the movie "Real Steel."

**Carving a path** I've been able to find ways to bring this type of figurative art to people, whether through snow carving and straw-building competitions, commissioned pieces, or even social media. I'm excited for my next big undertaking, which is an idea similar to the Bristol Ren-Faire in Kenosha, Wis. It's centered around Ancient Rome.

Reedsburg, Milwaukee and Madison, Wis.

Upon retiring in 2014, du Vair was profiled by the Wisconsin State Journal. The article says, "Du Vair stuck with high school freshmen throughout his career, racking up dozens of local and national awards for his teaching, among them his favorite: 'Best Teacher in the World,' given by his students in 1982." Du Vair also served as president of the Wisconsin Education Association Council, the state teachers' union, in the late 1970s.

He is survived by two children.

**1959 Larry Gulan**, of Ironwood, Mich., died Sept. 22, 2021, at the age of 84. He worked for his family's logging company, White Pine Copper Company and the Ironwood (Wis.) School District. He is survived by three children.

**1959 René Emond**, of Waunakee, Wis., died Sept. 24, 2021, at the age of 83. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked as the registrar for Elizabethtown Technical College in Elizabethtown, Ky. He also served as the director of the Off Campus Program Center at Fort Knox. He is survived by one child.

**1960 Susanne (Daley) Bogdon**, of Franklin, Wis., died Sept. 11, 2021, at the age of 84. She worked as an English teacher and the librarian at St. Francis High School (Wis.). She is survived by her husband, **Glen '57**, and one child.

**1961 Ken Wall**, of Green Bay, died April 8, 2021, at the age of 87. He worked as an English teacher at Preble High School in Green Bay until his retirement. He is survived by one child.

**1961 Thomas Vandelist**, of De Pere, died April 26, 2021, at the age of 87. He worked for the family business, Grandview Dairy, which delivered dairy products to homes and businesses, for more than 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne, and two children.

**1961 Michael Monfils**, of Peekskill, N.Y., died May 11, 2021, at the age of 82. He served in the U.S. Army. He later served as the Brown County supervisor and Green Bay alderman before being elected as mayor of Green Bay from 1975 to 1979. He later worked for the Fort Howard Paper Company and spent time as the labor mediator for the

State of Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and four children.

**1961 Francis "Fran" Junio**, of Green Bay, died July 30, 2021, at the age of 82. After receiving his commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, he went on to earn his master's degree from the University of Oklahoma. He served in the military for 26 years. After retiring from the service in 1987, he worked as plans/operations manager for Wackenhut Services Inc. Along with **Myron "Mike" Hauser '57** (see obituary notice above), he was a member of the alumni office's Third Thursday Breakfast Club, a group of St. Norbert alumni who participated in ROTC in the late 50s and 60s. He is survived by his wife, Diane, and one child.

**1961 Cletus Rataichek Sr.**, of Brillion, Wis., died Aug. 20, 2021, at the age of 82. He served in the U.S. Army. He owned and operated Rataichek Hardware in Reedsville, Wis. He also worked as a rural route mail carrier in both Reedsville and Green Bay. He is survived by his wife, Emily, and four children, among them **Cletus Jr. '99** and **Cheryl '00**.

**1961 Melroy Feit**, of Cottage Grove, Wis., died Oct. 12, 2021, at the age of 82. He served in the U.S. Army. He was a study director and chemist for Covance, where he worked for 41 years. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, and four children, including **Scott '95**.

**1961 Roger Merens**, of Green Bay, died Oct. 13, 2021, at the age of 83. His service in the U.S. Army included an assignment in Turkey as a Russian interpreter. He is survived by his wife, Janet.

**1962 Bill Zanzig**, of Appleton, Wis., died Oct. 4, 2021, at the age of 82. He started his career working in sales at Bergstrom Paper Company before retiring in 2011 as senior vice president at Bulkley Duncan, which he cofounded as Strategic Paper Group. He is survived by three children.

**1962 Mary (Reinhart) Schall**, of De Pere, died Aug. 7, 2021, at the age of 77. She taught art in the De Pere School District for 27 years. She spent a year as a Fulbright program exchange teacher in Bath, England. She is survived by one child.

**1963 Penny (Paige) Geisler**, of Havelock, N.C., died June 21, 2021, at the age of 80. She worked in the pharmaceutical and electrical equipment industries and later was employed as part of the IT department at Dominion Bank. She was a member of the

Harlowe (N.C.) Volunteer Fire Department for many years and was vice president of its board. She is survived by her husband, Peter, and two children.

**1965 David Gagermeier**, of Carmel, Ind., died June 2, 2021, at the age of 77. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army JAG Corp. He worked as a lawyer for the Defense Finance & Accounting Service in Indianapolis. At the time of his retirement, he was the head of the U.S. Army General Counsel Office. He is survived by his wife, Terrel, and two children.

**1965 Ken Smits**, of Franklin, Wis., died Sept. 2, 2021, at the age of 78. He worked as comptroller and adjunct professor at St. Norbert College, at Marquette University as vice president of business and finance, and served as vice president of St. John's Northwestern

Military Academy until 2010. He is survived by his wife, **Sally Weber '75**, and five children.

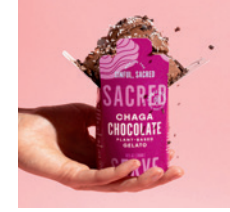
**1967 John Hickey**, of Dubuque, Iowa, died May 2, 2021, at the age of 76. He served in the U.S. Army. He taught at Lincoln Elementary School in Dubuque for 36 years. He is survived by his wife, Pamela, and six children.

**1967 Mary (Berigan) Rogers**, of Wildwood, Mo., died May 4, 2021, at the age of 76. She obtained a master's degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh. Her family remember her as someone who found joy and purpose as a helper "whether it be fostering puppies, giving to charities, or simply assisting people at the library." She is survived by her husband, Donald, and two children.

**1968 Al Cider Jr.**, of Gilbert, Ariz., died Sept. 7, 2021, at the age of 75. He worked as a math teacher and coach in Wisconsin and Arizona. He is survived by two sisters.

**1970 Mark Lambert**, of Sun Prairie, Wis., died Sept. 9, 2021, at the age of 72. He worked in various roles as an English teacher, mental

ECO-FRIENDLY



The cartons don't have lids. "We worked with a partner for three years to remove the plastic from our packaging, and in 2021 we officially debuted the world's first 100 percent plastic-free, compostable, biodegradable and recyclable ice-cream carton," says **John Curtis**.

The environmental benefits were highlighted when Sacred Serve was featured on the Today Show.

Sacred serendipity

Curtis's Sacred Serve role is the eventual outcome of a date, or as John Curtis calls it, "a serendipitous meeting," with Sacred Serve founder Kailey Donewald. They stayed in touch when she went traveling soon afterward. In Bali, she experimented with a raw, plant-based diet that eased her lifelong asthma and allergies after two weeks. She returned from abroad and worked with a chef to develop the recipes. Curtis was her first hire.



Do we have a scoop for you

When Wallace Stevens wrote, "The only emperor is the emperor of ice cream," he could have had **John Curtis '07** in mind.

By 5:30 a.m. each weekday, Curtis (above) arrives at a vegan-approved kitchen unit in a former meatpacking warehouse in Chicago, now a hub for closed-loop, zero-waste independent food companies. As head of operations for Sacred Serve, he directs his team as they make around 1,000 tubs of the flavor of the day. Sacred Serve gelato is no ordinary ice cream, and not technically ice cream at all. It's organic, vegan, dairy free, gluten free and fair trade.

"Everyone can enjoy it," Curtis says. "You can give it to kids after dinner and you won't be peeling them off the ceiling."

Emperor Curtis chooses the flavor of the day to respond to customer demand. There's recently been a run on the festive Saffron Chai Spice. In between creating the product, he sorts out distribution and logistics issues, which he learned to love in his previous position as a project manager for a retail design company.

"I was honing my craft and learning everything about operations and production in business," says Curtis. "Eventually I was working very long days, and I was ready for a move into an area where the outcome was a little more in my control.

When Sacred Serve needed to take someone on to look after operations, I was ready to make the leap."

With an economics degree plus an education certificate from St. Norbert, Curtis initially taught middle-school history, geography and American studies in Green Bay.

"I loved being in the classroom. There were wonderful moments every day, but it was challenging. On reflection, I probably wasn't mature enough and the workload was immense. By the age of 24, I wanted to take some time to decide what was right for me."

After a series of front-of-house roles in Green Bay restaurants, came what Curtis calls "my big life switcheroo": a move to Chicago with a U-Haul and no guaranteed job. "Again, I made the leap and it worked out. I had a job within two weeks, and I found my niche, which is solving problems."

Even in the best regulated gelato empire a machine can break down, or there can be a potential supply-chain issue with saffron from Afghanistan: "We do work with rare ingredients, but we've got a consistent network and robust systems, so I'm pretty confident."

Sacred Serve is in Whole Foods in the Midwest plus a range of independent shops throughout the U.S., or at sacredserve.com.

Coconut classics



The base Sacred Serve gelato recipe contains fair-trade young coconut meat (half the calories and fat of coconut milk) imported frozen from Thailand, plus unrefined coconut oil, coconut sugar and sunflower lecithin. Flavor adds include chaga mushrooms, maca root, raw cacao and matcha green tea. "Don't ask me my favorite flavor," says Curtis. "It's like choosing a favorite child. ... OK, I love the Matcha Mint Chip."



Photo courtesy Monica Sawyn and The Compass

He was a scholar, a soldier, a lumberman and a musician

**Lester Berns '40**, who died on Sept. 12, 2021, fit a lot of experiences into his 103 years. His son John remembers a tale where his (Lester's) mother drove him down to St. Norbert College in 1936 and, looking out for her son, thought the residence hall was a "fire trap." She told school staff, "If my son cannot get a room on the lower level, he will be coming back to Sister Bay." They met her demands. He later studied law at Marquette University.

A lifelong resident of Door County, aside from three years serving in Europe during World War II, Berns was featured in the Door County Advocate in 2015. In the interview, he describes forging a lasting romance with his wife, Lucille, whom he had yet to meet in person, through letters while in Europe. "I didn't know if this was very serious or not. I was going to send her a picture of John Wayne instead of myself," he said. They were married for 64 years.

After his wife's death in 2011, Berns became a piano man playing to raise funds in his wife's honor. He raised more than \$18,000 for short-term assistance programs administered by St. Joseph Parish in Sturgeon Bay. John recalls a story that encapsulates his father's commitment to the church and his faith: "It was around 1955. It snowed all evening, there was no traffic going through Sister Bay that Sunday morning. ... Dad headed up to church and when he returned home about two hours later, we asked, 'How many people were there?' And he said, 'If you count me and the priest, there were six.'"





**From St. Norbert to Norby**  
**Rebecca (Liming) '15** and Nicholas Sanderfoot met at St. Norbert through a mutual friend in 2014, were engaged in the campus Shakespeare garden in 2016 and got married at Old St. Joe's in 2017.

"We met through mutual friends, on Fourth Street actually," Rebecca says. Nicholas was living in Milwaukee at the time. "On our two-year dating anniversary, he took me on a date back on campus. ... He made me a homemade cribbage board and we played in the Juliet garden."

With their families peeking around the bushes, taking pictures, Nicholas had a surprise. "There was a secret compartment in the cribbage board and he proposed," Rebecca says. A daughter, Naomi, arrived a few years later, and the family just welcomed Norby in August.

"We really like family history names and names from our history," Rebecca says. "All the pieces lined up to at St. Norbert. It [his name] is a tribute to our story."

Rebecca strives to pass on the spirit of St. Norbert to her Norby (and certainly Naomi, too). She recently gave him a homemade gift inscribed with the college's motto, "*docere verbo et exemplo*," in hopes her son will do as she now does, teach by word and example.

health advocate and owner of a window-shade business. He is survived by his wife, Jan, and one child.

**1971 Dianne (Stark) Henke**, of Naples, Fla., died April 2, 2021, at the age of 72. She worked on several inner-city task forces focused on crime, drugs and housing. She founded the Henke Peace & Justice Fund at SNC and also co-founded the non-profit Global Partners: Running Waters, which focuses on providing access to

potable water in Latin America. She is survived by her husband, Brian, and three children.

**1971 William Donovan**, of South Abington Township, Pa., died April 3, 2021, at the age of 72. He worked as a human-resources manager for Trane Company, Dunmore, Pa., and Sathers Candy Company in Pittston, Pa. He is survived by his wife, **Mary (Tomko) '72**.

**1971 Patrick Raven**, of Egg Harbor, Wis.,

died Aug. 12, 2021, at the age of 72. He first worked at St. John Cathedral High School in Milwaukee before spending more than two decades as a teacher and curriculum coordinator for the school district in Waukesha, Wis. He later worked as a world language consultant in educational publishing. He is survived by his wife, **Mary (Varju) '71**, and two children, including **Elizabeth '97**.

**1973 Christine Sinnott-Cooper**, of Auburn, Wash., died Aug. 8, 2021, at the age of 72. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth.

**1974 Edward Baumann**, of Okauchee, Wis., died Sept. 13, 2021, at the age of 69. He worked for the Village of Pewaukee (Wis.) Police Department for several decades and retired as the police chief. He was the CEO and co-founder of ELITE Protection Specialists LLC and served as an adjunct professor at Marquette University. He also coached football at Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha, Wis. He is survived by three children.

**1975 Sister Rose Marie Buscemi**, of Green Bay, died May 6, 2021, at the age of 90. She was a teacher at elementary schools serving the Diocese of Green Bay. She was a religious-education coordinator and pastoral associate at Annunciation Parish in Fox Lake, Wis. She is survived by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross.

**1976 Burt Angeli**, of Kingsford, Mich., died April 9, 2020, at the age of 65. He worked as a sportswriter for Iron Mountain (Mich.) News. He is survived by his wife, Regina.

**1977 Mary Grosch**, of Arnold, Mo., died April 7, 2021, at the age of 65. She worked for the Founders Memorial Library at Northern Illinois University, where she would be promoted to the head of government publications. She is survived by her husband, Pete.

**1977 Maurice Washington**, of Green Bay, died June 18, 2021, at the age of 65. He worked as a social worker for the Green Bay School District and various local hospitals. He is survived by three children.

**1979 Thomas Howard**, of Lemont, Ill., died Sept. 21, 2021, at the age of 64. He worked as an investment banker. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn, and two children.

**1987 Daniel Mackin**, of De Pere, died Sept. 8, 2021, at the age of 60. He was the founder and owner of Ever-Green Landscape Management. He is survived by four siblings.

**1990 Bill Gilles**, of Onalaska, Wis., died June 5, 2021, at the age of 53. He held engineering, quality and program management positions at Peerless Chain, Benchmark Electronics, Trane Company, Ingersoll Rand and LHI. He is survived by his wife, Heather, and two children.

**1992 Deacon Kenneth Kopydlowski** of Sturgeon Bay, Wis., died Aug. 21, 2021, at the age of 82. From 1977 to 2004, Koydlowski served as deacon of S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Green Bay, and later at St. Joseph Catholic Church and S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Institute, Wis. He worked to provide education and counseling for the correctional system,

domestic-abuse healing, anger-management assistance, cognitive programs and drug-addiction programs. He is survived by his brother.

**2007 (MTS) Deacon Cyril "Bud" Klister**, of Appleton, Wis., died Oct. 2, 2021, at the age of 75. He served at Holy Name Parish in Kimberly, Wis. and later at Holy Spirit Parish in the Fox Cities. He was employed by Bellin Hospital in Green Bay, Villa Phoenix and Klister House in Appleton, Private Industry Council in Appleton and the Housing Authority/Golden Ventures in Kaukauna, Wis. He is survived by his wife, Dolores, and two children.

**1976 Patricia (Marin) Vickman**, of Forestville, Wis., was the 2021 recipient of the Karl May Lifetime of Service Award at the Door County Golden Hearts volunteer recognition ceremony. Vickman recently retired after 45 years in education, the last nine of them as superintendent of the Southern Door County (Wis.) School District.

**1979 John Hanley**, a retired U.S. Army brigadier general, has been named provost of St. John's Northwestern Academies in Delafield, Wis.

**1979 Dave Barthel** has been appointed as the CEO of Marizyme Inc., an integrated life sciences company.

**1983 Dan Pichler** has retired as geographic market leader for Wipfil's Green Bay and Fox Cities offices, where he worked for 38 years.

**1985 Mary (Bartz) Dano** joined the legal team at Advocate Aurora Health as an associate general counsel. She advises internal clients on legal matters related to operations, regulatory and compliance matters.

**1988 Theresa Roetter** has been elected to the executive committee of DeWitt LLP law firm.

**1975 The Hon. Andrew Gonring** was selected as the keynote speaker for the Memorial Day Program in West Bend, Wis. He served on the Washington County (Wis.) Circuit Court for 20 years before retiring in 2020. He has also been the president of the West Bend School Board, chairman of the City of West Bend Police & Fire Commission, president of the Noon Kiwanis Club and president of the Kettle Moraine YMCA.

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**1988 John Sweeney** and his wife have sold Brave New Workshop, the longest-running satirical comedy theatre in the United States, to Hennepin Theatre Trust. The couple have renamed their corporate keynote speaking and training company Brave New Outpost. They continue to manage the Brave New Institute, a nonprofit launched in 1997.

"Solidifying this next chapter of the Brave New Workshop has been a great example of collaboration from day one," says Sweeney. Lisa Goodman, the Minneapolis City Council member who represents the city's Theatre District, called it a "win-win" for the city's arts community.

**1989 Timothy Goodman** has been named vice president of Tekni-Plex Flexibles' healthcare packaging division.

**1990 Thomas Civik** has been appointed chairman of the board for Repare Therapeutics Inc.

**1991 Sheri Strobel** has been appointed the new chief information officer for Chapters Health System, headquartered in Temple Terrace, Fla.

**1991 Mike Bendel** has been named as a shareholder of Davis|Kuelthau law firm.

**1991 John Williams** has been recognized as NACD Directorship Certified by Church Mutual Insurance Co.

**1992 Scott Nikolai** has been appointed coordinator of institutional research for the Cloud County Community College Board in Concordia, Kan.

**1993 Mark O'Brien** has been appointed to the Georgia Tourism Board of Directors by

Governor Brian P. Kemp. O'Brien is the president and CEO of LakePoint Sports. (*O'Brien's work with LakePoint Sports during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic was the focus of an article in our Spring/Summer 2020 issue.*)

**1994 Amy (Schmidt) Heimerl** has been appointed as vicar of Ascension Episcopal Church in Merrill, Wis.

**1994 Max** and Cindy Brosig of Medina, Wis., and their love and service were featured in an article in local newspaper The Courier. They serve in two different branches of the military, and their sacrifice brought the couple together and shaped their story. Max told The Courier, "We volunteered to do it. We have gotten phenomenal experiences out of it. Heck, that's how we got each other."

**1995 Karen Loritz** has accepted the chief financial officer position with MetalTek International, headquartered in Waukesha, Wis.

**1995 Brian Foster** published his first book in 2021, "Pat Randolph Mysteries: The Case of Lori Larkin." The Prairies Book Review says, "Recently graduated, Pat Randolph is more than happy to begin his internship with the Windy City Police Department. When he comes across the case of Lori Larkin, a missing girl he used to love, Pat knows he has to look into the matter, unaware his search for answers will take him on a dangerous path. ... The suspense element is strong as Foster adeptly controls the flow of the story and keeps the tension high until the last page."

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appointed as the general manager of the Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City.

**1996 Vince Vitrano** has been announced as the new host of "Wisconsin's Morning News" on Newsradio 620 WTMJ. He joined TMJ4 in 2000 as a general assignment reporter and leaves as the primetime co-anchor. "For a kid born and raised in Wisconsin, this job is like playing for the Brewers and the Bucks!" Vitrano says.

**1997 Jenefer Kind** has been named vice president of operations for Fox Communities Credit Union. She will oversee the member-payment systems and quality-control departments.

**1998 Bob Van Himbergen** has been named as one of the recipients of the 2021 Philanthropic 5 Awards by United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County.

**1999 Jessica Peterson** has joined the executive team of Dutchland Plastics in Oostburg, Wis., as the director of human resources.

**2000 Damon Wos** was named general manager for the Schaumburg, Ill., and Gary, Ind., locations of Olympic Steel Inc.

**2001 Robert Carviu MBA '20** has been promoted to vice president of marketing and brand strategy at Prevea Health.

**2001 Heather Dunn** was selected as one of three co-chairs for the 2021 United Performing Arts Fund Community Campaign.

**2002 Chris Hess**, president and CEO of Goodwill NCW, has joined the Northeast Wisconsin Advisory Board of Directors of First Business Bank.

**2003 Brooke Napiwocki** has been promoted to director of financial planning at Crescendo Wealth Management.

**2003 Susan Schramka** has been hired as the new associate principal for Silver Spring Intermediate School in Sussex, Wis.

**2003 Meghan (Umphres) Leatherman** of Madison, Wis., was recognized by In Business as a top 40 Under 40 in 2021. She was also part of Leadership Greater Madison 27 and led Madison's chapter of the Public Relations Society of America as president for two years. Leatherman has received an award of excellence from the inaugural Wisconsin Awards for her work.

**2004 Melissa Yelle** was featured by WBAY-TV News for a blog article she wrote for Green Bay Area Mom about kid-friendly Thanksgiving activities during the pandemic. The mom of two recommends baking, making gratitude bowls and other simple ideas to make the day special. "I think the bigger lesson with these activities is, there are creative ways to connect with people around you," she says.

**2004 Adrienne Wallner Jaeger** has published a volume of her poetry, "To The 4 a.m. Light," through Finishing Line Press. Baron Wormser, former poet laureate of Maine, says: "[Jaeger's] poems are moving in the truest sense – physicality embodied in language that consistently speaks to the joys and griefs of being on earth. She is a Whitman poet in the sense that she is writing the one-life poem that radiates from her self in unpredictable directions, a poem that is grandly and sensitively inclusive."

# Alumni Award Winners 2021

St. Norbert College annually celebrates alumni who exemplify Norbertine ideals in their daily lives. This year, we recognize and celebrate those who took on vital roles during the pandemic, helping others.

## In education, our 2021 recipients are:

Ann Halley '77, Mary Jean Zanio '81, Margaret Bentley '81, George Carroll '93, Jonathan Van Beckum '94, Michelle Spaeth '96, Lisa Thyssen '97, Joshua Gehl '01, Nic Bongers '02, Crystal Trejo '03, Casey Rentmeester '05, Robert Vickman '09, Lyssa Scheunemann '10, Josh Jones '10, Krista Arellano '10, Courtney Elm '13, Marica LaSalle '15, Andrew Baert '16, Quincy Kissack '16, Johanna Rolfs '19

**Healthcare:** Terrance Derks '82, Elizabeth Schilling '82, Ellen Lamarre '90, Jodie Gord '03, Lisa Knauf-Jorasz '03, Robert VandeVoort '08, Justin Gassner '08, Erin Murphy '08, Ashley Cordier '10, Renee Vickman '11, Kara Holther '11, Shelby VanRossum '17, Sarah Jensen '19, Amanda Schmidt '19

**Fire and safety:** Kathleen Kelly '93, Brian Carlson '96, Carrie Haverfield '99, Jeffrey Ziebka '07, Dennis O'Connell '02, Cory Fuller '09, Emma Townsend '11, Christian Harrington '12, Alyssa (Wapneski) Lea '15, Emily Owens '17, Samuel Martinez '21

**Public and community service:** Colleen Burg '94, David Palm '94, James Healy '06, JoAnn Muhl '97, Jordan Nordby '11, Katie DeRuyter '16

**Business:** Kathryn Eggert '79, Jennifer Lambrecht '03, Natasha Murphy '04, Rocio Sanchez '17

SNC thanks all its frontline workers: You are an inspiration to us all.

Read more about our award winners. [snc.edu/alumni/awards](https://snc.edu/alumni/awards)

**2004 Karin Adams** has begun her new role as the director of the Marinette (Wis.) County Library System. Her appointment and love of reading was featured in an Eagle Herald article. She says, "I see and feel the love that the people have in their libraries. They may be small, but they are mighty."

**2006 Rachel (Costello) Pridgen** earned her doctorate in education in August 2021. Her dissertation detailed the experiences of students with food insecurity at a small liberal arts college. She is director for student involvement and transition programs and adjunct assistant professor of graduate education at North Central College in Naperville, Ill.

**2006 Spencer Carbery** has been hired as the assistant coach for the Toronto Maple Leafs of the NHL. He previously coached the Hershey Bears to the 2021 AHL regular season championship.

**2006 Eric Toney**, Fond du Lac district attorney, has announced he is running in the 2022 election to become Wisconsin's attorney general.

**2007 Molly Wolk** has successfully defended her dissertation, "American Indian Culture & Secondary Science Curricula: Examining the Confluence of Native Epistemologies & U.S. Public Education Science Standards," at UW-Milwaukee. She earned her Ph.D. in urban education with a concentration in curriculum and instruction. Wolk is currently serving as a visiting assistant professor in the College of Education at Boise State University.

**2007 Troy Boisjoli** has been appointed president and CEO of Murchison Minerals Ltd.

**2008 Lindsey (Pione) Mattucci** launched her own company, Lindsey Mattucci | LBMP Creative, focusing on graphic design, medical illustrations and fine art in June 2021.

**2008 Maria Van Hoorn** has accepted a position at the Wisconsin Department of Tourism as the organization's deputy secretary.

**2008 Daniel Mahoney** has accepted a position with the Clorox Company as an operations manager at their Atlanta facility.

**2008 Bret Grasse** was cited in a July 2021 New York Times article titled "Did a Cuttlefish Write This?" His work growing cephalopods, specifically cuttlefish, at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., was referenced in the article.

**2008 Steve Strohmaier** celebrated his ninth year in the U.S. Coast Guard, five as a public affairs representative. He was presented with his fifth Meritorious Team Commendation award and third Good Conduct award. He is currently stationed in Seattle, Wash.

**2008 Marc Belanger** has been inducted into the St. Norbert College Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2021 for his accomplishments in men's hockey.

**2008 Jeff Pentek** has been inducted into the St. Norbert College Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2021 for his accomplishments in men's cross country and track & field.

**2009 Douglas Allen** accepted a position at FedEx Express after seven years in the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

**2009 Bob Vickman** has been appointed principal

**Constructing a legacy**  
**Patrick Michels '81**, president and CEO of Michels Corp., has been elected to the 2021 class of the National Academy of Construction. The academy commends his "expansive leadership in service to heavy civil, infrastructure, energy, utility, and transportation sectors and innovative approaches in guiding businesses and affiliate companies." Michels joined the company his father founded in 1959 as a laborer, became general superintendent, rose to vice president of the line and cable division, and then took over as president of the corporation in 1998.

of St. Stanislaus Kostka Academy, a pre-K-8 school in Chicago.

**2010 Jenny (Scherer) Benkert** has been inducted into the St. Norbert College Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2021 for her accomplishments in women's cross country and track and field.

**2010 Nathan Hurlbut** has joined law firm Greenberg Traurig LLP as a shareholder in the Utah office.

**2011 Jared Yost** has been inducted into the St. Norbert College Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2021 for his accomplishments in baseball.

**2011 Nick Tabisz** has been inducted into the St. Norbert College Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2021 for his accomplishments in men's hockey.

**2011 (MTS) Bishop Daniel Gutiérrez** of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania has been appointed to serve on the Church Growth & Planting Commission for the Anglican Communion.

**2012 Ala Aldahneem** has been certified by the International Coach Federation as a certified professional coach.

**2012 Austin McGuire** has completed the Armor Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Benning, Ga. He is stationed at Fort Knox in Kentucky.

**2012 Christina Nicholson Milinski** has accepted a position teaching kindergarten at Woodland Elementary in Kingsford, Mich.

**2013 Zachary Zander** presented a webinar, "Chemically Resistant Polymers for Next Generation Healthcare & Consumer Products," sponsored by his employer, the Avient Corporation.

**2015 Elizabeth Martell** has joined the Greater Green Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau as the business development and community engagement manager.

**2015 Rachel Ziolkowski** has joined the Manitowoc (Wis.) Public School District as a music teacher.

**2015 Elizabeth Krajnik** has accepted a position at Barclay Damon LLP in Buffalo, N.Y., as a marketing writer.

**2015 Britney Heineman** has been awarded the UW-Lacrosse 2021 University Staff Excellence Award for her work as the office operations associate for university marketing and communications.

**2015 Ryan Rieth** was named manager of talent acquisition, diversity and belonging at Theda-Care in July 2020. He joined the organization in January 2020 as a human resources business partner.

**2017 Haley Semenak** has accepted a position as sixth-grade language arts teacher at West De Pere Middle School.

**2018 Stephanie Dooge** has accepted a position as an area coordinator for housing at St. Norbert College.

**2018 McKenzie Sprangers** has earned her Master of Medical Science in physician assistant studies from Northwestern University in Downers Grove, Ill. She also passed national boards to become a certified physician assistant.

**2018 Emma Ferguson** has received her degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School and has accepted a position as a civil rights and employment discrimination attorney.

**2019 Nicolette Sylvain** and her artwork have been featured in the Door County Pulse.

**2019 Kiera Matthews** appeared in "Dream Roles Cabaret," a Waukesha (Wis.) Civic Theatre production. She also served as music director for the production.

**2019 Avery Rhenwick** was featured in the Green Bay Press-Gazette for his commitment to donate 20 percent of profits from his clothing brand 4th N Long to help pay students' athletics fees. "I came across several articles about the hundreds of thousands of kids in America and across the world that are unable to play sports because of the cost,"

he told the newspaper. "Being in such a small community, being surrounded by people and businesses that have a deep passion for sports in general, kind of helped shape me as a person."

**2019 Carson Torhorst** presented at the Annual Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists hosted by SNC. Torhorst is studying in the department of wildlife ecology and conservation at the University of Florida.

**2020 Anne Oleniczak** has accepted a position as a teacher at Banting Elementary School in Waukesha, Wis.

**2020 Hailey Barron** has accepted a position as the publicity manager at Cherry Lake Publishing Group in Ann Arbor, Mich.

**2021 Abigail Lesch** has joined Northland Pines School District in Eagle River, Wis., as the elementary- and middle-school English teacher.

**2021 Mackenzie Neumann** was named the 2021 Fairest of the Fair, serving as the official ambassador for the Ozaukee County Fair.

**CORRECTIONS**  
Misstated in our Fall/Winter 2021 issue, **Krista (Perine) Gies** is, in fact, a class of 2007 graduate of St. Norbert. In our report on the retirement of **John Pennington '80**, we regrettably omitted his class year and unintentionally shortened his tenure: He served for 30 years on the English faculty at St. Norbert College.

**Share your news!** Submit your item at [snc.edu/go/keepintouch](https://snc.edu/go/keepintouch).  
Keep track and connect with fellow alumni on Facebook. [facebook.com/sncalumni](https://facebook.com/sncalumni)



### Mitten ministry

The new Little Warmth Library in the Mulva warmed hearts as well as hands when it opened its doors to greet students and faculty as they returned after winter break.

"It was built off of the Little Food Pantry the library has done for a couple years," says **April Beiswenger (Theatre Studies)**, "and I figured if someone was food-insecure, they might also be warmth-insecure. If someone wants to help, they can donate new or gently used hats, scarves and gloves to the cause. My mom made a ton of the crocheted hats (because she hates being cold!), and SNC faculty and staff have donated much of the warmth already. What hasn't been used by spring will either be saved for next winter or donated to the shelter."

### Recommended viewing: Nice on ice

After 28 years as the head of a storied program, there can't be many hockey surprises left for **Coach Tim Coghlin**. Nevertheless, Coach was unsuspecting when he arrived at the arena ahead of the Concordia game Dec. 3 and discovered it's new name: Tim Coghlin Rink. The dedication of the Green Knights home ice was capped by a 7-1 win – Coghlin's 604th.

Coghlin has built St. Norbert hockey into one of the best programs in Division III athletics, capturing five NCAA Division III national championships and 31 combined Northern Collegiate Hockey Association championships. "Tim has been the model for leadership, dedication and consistency," says SNC athletics director **Cam Fuller**. [youtube.com/stnorbertcollege](https://youtube.com/stnorbertcollege)



### A knight in short armor

**Sam Froelich '09** and **Katie (Latz) Froelich '11** now live in Dallas, but that doesn't stop them from incorporating St. Norbert traditions into their family fun. Katie made this valiant Norby costume herself for her son Norbert, 6.

Katie says, "Norbert was born May 15, 2015, and I graduated St. Norbert on May 15, 2011. I didn't realize he was born the same day as my graduation until I was cleaning a drawer and found my program."

Young Norbert, who debuted his knightly armor at Halloween, has already visited his parents' alma mater. Says mom, "He loved walking around campus and seeing his name everywhere, and we are so happy he loves it as much as we do."

### Cats and bears and ...

The Unboxing feature was conceived to highlight the varied and unique items students, faculty and staff have shipped to campus – ties for Oliver the cat, a plush Yoda and gummy bears, oh my! And Oliver was such a star – proudly strutting around the studio in his tie once he warmed up to the camera. He can also sport an adorable little cowboy hat when the mood strikes.

But planning the photo shoot also reminded me of all the little things that bring us joy and comfort. Students told us about cookies and treats from grandma, cocoa from mom, gummy bears from dad. When I was a student, one of my roommates had a small closet that served as overflow storage for her treats from home. There was always more than enough for all four of us. I'll never eat animal crackers or see a pink plaid robe and not reminisce about our magical, shared time in that third floor apartment.

What items evoke your fondest college memories? We love hearing from you! And for our loyal readers making note of the new signature (art director Laura here) below, fear not, Susan will once again pen the summer issue editorial.

*Laura Treichel*

### WORDS & PICTURES

**Editor:** Susan Allen **Art Director:** Laura Treichel **Associate Editor:** Eric Schreiber **Contributors:** Angela Austin, Geraldine Brennan, Mike Counter M.L.S. '14, Mike Dauplaise '84, John Devroy, Scott Eastman '96, Tom Janssen, Rob Kaiser, Susan Kornved, Hannah Kruse '18, Jeff Kurowski, Erin Lamm '24, Melanie McManus '83, Rachel Mueller '14, Milena Shabert, Corey Wilson, Breeana Zubrod '24

**College President:** Brian J. Bruess '90

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

### TALK TO US!

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

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## Parting Shot / The Reward

“The fruit derived from labor is the sweetest of pleasures.” – *Luc de Clapiers, Marquis de Vauvenargues*

