

St. Norbert

College Magazine | Summer 2019

Man on Fire

A new perspective on
our founding saint



In Print

Vol. 51, No. 2, Summer 2019



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The 2019 Thriving Institute presented a unique opportunity to engage with SNC's Catholic higher-education peers in conversation about the importance of remaining nimble, innovative and adaptive, as higher education navigates intensifying headwinds.



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"If there's one thing I learned from the trinity of women in whose generative shadows I became the person I am, it's that wise women can stand up and step up in part because they know when to laugh." – **Julie (Donovan) Massey '87** (Mission & Student Affairs)



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Students in BIOL 320: Human Anatomy & Histology became their own textbooks as they applied their knowledge of musculature through the medium of body paint.

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Cover Story



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Man on Fire

Those familiar with Norbert of Xanten know him as peacemaker, defender of the Eucharist and strong-willed church reformer. But other characteristics of Norbert have been difficult to decipher. A new book by **President Emeritus Tom Kunkel**, "Man on Fire: The Life & Spirit of Norbert of Xanten," brings Norbert to life and shows that he, as most saints did, led a life that was emotional, conflicting and, indeed, a bit messy. In short, Norbert led a life that was altogether human.

On our cover: The Benedictine artist Brother Martin Erspamer, known for his contemporary Romanesque style, was an exciting choice as illustrator of the new biography.



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In Case of Emergency

His country mourned and for **Jamie O'Brien** (Business Administration) the needless tragedy lingered in his heart and mind. Now his case study on the Air France 447 disaster can be studied in management courses around the world.



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Packed Summer

Our summer plans are rich and diverse, and we pack accordingly!

Online

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



Inspired: **Karlyn Crowley** (CVC, English) on her road to Earlham College, on Quaker pedagogy and on the Earlham professors who inspired her own teaching (**page 8**).



In the Bible: Images from a service of blessing at St. Norbert Abbey (**page 9**) reveal the rich experience that The Saint John's Bible opens to all who explore its pages.



In the big leagues: **Spenser Thompson-Myers '19** kicked his way into the record books (**page 10**), and the NFL took notice.



In BIOL 320: Our inner workings revealed (**page 13**) in the Human Anatomy & Histology course taught by **Deb Anderson** (Biology).



In conversation: **Tom Kunkel**, president emeritus, joins **Judy (Sprangers) Turba '76** and two young Norbertines to talk about the writing of his "Man on Fire" (**page 16**).



In the footsteps of the disciples: A telling episode from a new biography of our founding saint (**page 16**).



In the cockpit: Our business students are learning real-world lessons (**page 20**) from the errant reactions that brought down Air France 447.



In his own words: This year's Commencement speaker (**page 35**) was the CEO of the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

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

snc.edu/magazine





We did it!

With business administration major **McKenna Egnarski '19** and all her classmates, we share in the joy of achievement and celebrate four amazing years. Next up: the rest of their lives!

Fine print, great passions



The annual Academic Awards Dinner is a highlight of the spring semester and was celebrated this year on April 23. **President Brian Bruess '90** reflects on the real message underlying the stories he heard there.

As you are reading this edition of SNC Magazine, most likely it is high season for weekends at the cabin, family reunions, evenings on the patio and the array of joys summer brings – minus the inevitable mosquitoes. Although, even those pesky little friends are a welcome sight, a sure sign we did indeed survive another Wisconsin winter. As I'm writing this column, it's a type of high season on campus – one of my favorites of the academic year, in fact – that of celebrating the academic accomplishments of our current and graduating students. As Dr. Howard Ebert, professor of theology and religious studies, aptly described during his keynote at this spring's Academic Awards Dinner, "... tonight is a high feast, the Academy Awards, the All-Star Game, the Super Bowl of academics: a time we celebrate the academic excellence of our students!"

Indeed, it was a fantastic celebration. And, without question, the excellence and accomplishments of this group of students left every one of us in the room awestruck. What also quite viscerally struck Carol and me as we honored St. Norbert's most impressive students that evening – those receiving Distinguished Achievement Awards in their disciplines, *summa cum laude* and/or other honors – was their intense and apparent *passion*. From education to theology to biology to law, these juniors and seniors display what I'd describe as an uncommon passion for what they are being called to do in this world. One after another, as we learned of this generation of students' many accomplishments as well as what they are off to do next as Green Knight alumni, it became decidedly clear: Our students are readily and fully embracing the creative, academic and spiritual gifts they have been given.

If the French philosopher Denis Diderot was correct in his assessment that "only passions, great passions, can elevate the soul to great things," we can rest assured our next and newest alumni are going to be more than just fine! In fact, it's undeniably clear they are going to do great things in this world – and already are. Like graduating senior Autumn Johnson, who discovered her passion at SNC for social justice

and serving others, leading the college's Habitat for Humanity chapter and now, as a newly minted alum, is heading out to do work in a nonprofit focused on the needs of the world.

Like senior Kristina Herman who majored in chemistry with a biochemistry concentration and math minor. She happened to also play two varsity sports at SNC and serve as research assistant for the National Science Foundation – in her free time. Kristina is now choosing between multiple offers from Ph.D. chemistry programs.

Like senior Roman Buss, an international student from Prague in the Czech Republic, who double-majored in economics and political science. Roman is similarly fielding multiple offers – his from law schools across the country, many of them wooing him with full scholarships.

Like senior Megan Lau, an instrumental and music education major who has not only been a member of multiple choirs the past four years – from flute to hand bell to wind ensemble – but also played varsity golf, earning three Elite 20 Awards. She is now headed off to realize her passion for education as an elementary school teacher.

Like senior Emily Steuer, a sociology major whose passion for research was recently given national recognition as she was named a prestigious Fulbright student.

I could go on. The program booklet that evening was 40 pages long, printed in a font so small I might have welcomed my strongest spectacles. But the evening, of course, was not about the quantity of certificates nor the volume of handshakes as students received their well-earned honors. It was about the outcomes, driven by our mission and vision, as they must always be. Indeed, we at St. Norbert College are steadfastly and uncompromisingly continuing to create learning environments in which every student can embrace and advance their passions. In doing so, they are becoming the next generation of leaders worthy of our trust.

HIGH IMPACT

St. Norbert is partnering with higher-ed consultants Credo on Moving the Needle, an 18-month campus-wide exercise focused on student retention, achievement and overall experience.

President Brian Bruess '90 says, "The Move the Needle initiative galvanizes the entire St. Norbert community to identify, further develop and implement impactful practices and solutions that will ensure that students are able to realize their graduation and career goals." Both the process and the outcomes of this partnership, Bruess adds, seek to build on an infrastructure of practices that allow the college to continue placing students where they need to be – at the center of its decision-making.



Here and thriving

On campus for this year's Thriving Institute were the leadership teams of

- Avila University
- College of St. Benedict
- Dominican University
- Edgewood College
- Lewis University
- St. Norbert College
- University of St. Francis

Sustaining

"It was a delight both to join seven fellow presidents whom I respect and also to return to St. Norbert after 20 years. The campus looks terrific, and you are fortunate to have a great president in Brian [Bruess]. The Thriving Institute is well named, as schools like St. Norbert will continue to innovate and take steps to ensure long-term sustained success."

– Guest speaker Tom Flynn, president of Alvernia University

Thriving colleges confer at SNC

Colleges and universities that are truly thriving in today's changing landscapes are the ones that are constantly looking ahead, industry experts agree. Such institutions are always thinking about how they can adapt with the most agility to whatever comes next in the rapidly changing landscape of higher education. So St. Norbert found itself in good company as it played host to the Thriving Institute, a May 21-23 conference sponsored by Credo and the Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities.

Emma Jones of Credo says: "The higher-ed landscape is not a static thing. Demographics and technology are really changing the way that we need to serve students and the way that the students coming into our institutions are learning." Other pressures shaping the landscape include issues of cost and affordability, diversity and social justice, regulatory changes, and ideological shifts in emphasis on outcomes and career readiness.

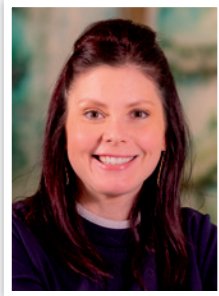
Jones points out that institutions can't reach a point of health and then simply

stop. "The institutions that are truly thriving are the ones that are thinking about how they can be most agile and adaptive to whatever comes next," she says.

Ron Slepitz, president of Avila University, found the deep dive into adaptive learning and design thinking offered at Thriving powerful, as his own college moves toward a new strategic plan. It would be equally helpful, he said, in navigating the "white waters" of the constant change in his industry, in learning, and in the world in which Avila's students, alumni and business partners live and work: "I believe these seven Catholic colleges and universities, with their distinct charisms, have an opportunity to share with each other, partner when possible, and commit to work together collaboratively to build our institutions, and the important missions we have and people we serve."

The seven schools who joined the conversation left with an expanded tool kit for effective teamwork and leadership focused on adaptive change.

New leadership for academic affairs ...



Jennifer Bonds-Raacke has joined St. Norbert as its new vice president for academic affairs. "I am humbled and honored to serve

as the next vice president for academic affairs at St. Norbert College," she says. "The Catholic, liberal arts and Norbertine traditions resonate with me due to my own educational background. From the moment I stepped on campus, I experienced the Norbertine idea of *communio*. This authentic, deep sense of community was transparent all around me; I was at home."

Bonds-Raacke comes from Fort Hays State University where she served as dean of the graduate school and office of scholarship and sponsored projects as well as holding the rank of tenured professor in the department of psychology. Her research interests lie in the psychology of teaching, mass communication and decision-making.

... and at the Schneider School of Business



Daniel Heiser, chair of the department of management and entrepreneurship at DePaul University, will be the next dean for the Schneider School

of Business & Economics at St. Norbert College. At DePaul, Heiser was responsible for the oversight of the Coleman Entrepreneurship Center, the Management Development Center, six master's programs and two undergrad majors.

In hardback

A new collection, "Modernist Women Writers & American Social Engagement" is co-edited by **Deirdre Egan-Ryan** (English) with Jody Cardinal of SUNY Old Westbury and Julia Lisella of Regis College. Published by Rowman & Littlefield, the book explores the role of women writers in well-documented social movements as well as less recognizable forms of advocacy for social change.



Latest Fulbright award extends a language legacy

Emily Steuer '19 has been chosen to represent the United States as a Fulbright student in Germany. Steuer is one of some 2,000 students in the U.S. to receive the honor. "It basically is the real deal," says **Nick Humphrey** (Modern Languages & Literatures), SNC's Fulbright advisor. "It's a State Department grant, and it is the flagship grant – the highest level of educational-exchange grant you can win from Washington. That's important, not just for Emily and what she wants to do, but also because it puts St. Norbert on the map." Steuer will spend 2019-20 teaching English to primary- or secondary-school children. "I feel teaching English is really important because you're bridging cultures, [building] a continuing globalized and interconnected world through a shared language," she says.

Humphrey, a Fulbrighter himself in 1998, has mentored two other students in their Fulbright journeys. **Lisa (Aldrich) Manicke '04** traveled to Germany and now runs an exchange program with her host city and the De Forest, Ill., school where she teaches. **Emily Zaeske '11** traveled to Austria and now lives and works there.

In print

The Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion has published "Religious Identity Formation: Constraints Imposed on Religious Institutions & Implications for the Meaning of Religious Affiliation" by **Marc von der Ruhr** (Economics) and **Paul Ngo** (Psychology).

In honor

The Natural Science Division honors a long-serving biology professor in naming the James R. Hodgson Summer Research Fellowship. The student fellowships will be funded by the Kresge Foundation, (in which **Jim Hodgson** was the lead author) which supports scientific research at SNC.

In civic engagement

Ruthie Tucker '22 has been named a 2019 Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact. Tucker, an education major, is passionate about

empowering Native American students through education and inclusion. Striving to make Native voices heard, she has formed the new Council of Indigenous Peoples at SNC.

President Brian Bruess '90 says "Ruthie grew up on the Menominee reservation and knows the challenges that come with being Native American. She wishes to reach out to tribes across Wisconsin to share her story and inspire young students to reach their fullest potential."

The Newman fellowship is a one-

year experience emphasizing personal, professional and civic growth for students who have demonstrated a capacity for leadership and an investment in solving public problems.

In recognition

The board of trustees has conferred the rank of full professor on **Bridget Burke Ravizza** (Theology & RS) and **Deirdre Egan-Ryan** (English).

In retrospect

Karlyn Crowley (CVC, English) tapped her own experiences as student and teacher for "Dancing Over


Rainbows," a piece in Earhamite, the magazine of her own alma mater: "These professors taught me to sit in a circle listening to ideas I disagreed with and learn to adjudicate those ideas rather than act out violently against them. They taught me that learning is eminently relevant ... In essence, they showed me that I always had my mind."

 **Read Crowley** on her road to Earham College, Quaker pedagogy and the Earham professors who inspired her own teaching. snc.edu/magazine

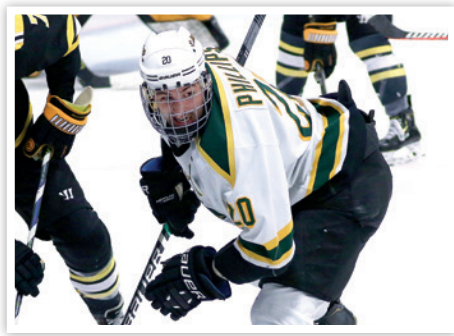


Illuminating the Word

The Song of Solomon is the most richly illustrated of the seven Heritage Edition volumes of The Saint John's Bible – an illuminated Bible made in an ancient tradition and created as a gift to the world for the new millennium. This extraordinary treasure, a gift to St. Norbert Abbey by generous friends, will be permanently displayed on the college campus. The St. Norbert set is one of only 299 created.

 More images from a service of blessing at St. Norbert Abbey reveal the rich experience that the Heritage Edition opens to all who explore its pages. snc.edu/magazine

Ironman on the ice



When **Steven Phillips '19** laced up his skates for his 120th hockey match with the Green Knights, he smashed the NCAA Division III record for consecutive games played. Phillips never missed a game during his college career, netting 123 consecutive games played.

It's impressive," said **Coach Tim Coghlin** at the end of the season. "You know, an ironman streak, where you're playing game after game after game. You know he's dinged up. You know he is hurt. And he continues to show up."

The previous national record of 119 consecutive games played was set in 2014.

Conference change



St. Norbert College joins the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC) as its 14th full-time member in the 2021-22 academic year. The move will mean less travel time for the Green Knights, with opponents located primarily in Wisconsin and Illinois, and will end the college's membership in the Midwest Conference. "Our student-athletes will be spending significantly less time away from campus, allowing for a more integrated student experience," says **President Brian Bruess '90**.

Just for kicks



Spenser Thompson-Meyers '19 has always had his sights set on the big leagues. First, his dream was to play professional baseball. Then he changed his focus to soccer. Then he found himself playing football at St. Norbert College – where he recently landed an invite to the Cleveland Browns' rookie mini-camp.

Thompson-Meyers headed to Ohio in May after being scouted by some eight NFL teams in April. "It's been exciting," Thompson-Meyers told local ABC affiliate WBAY-TV. "I have just been taking it all in and enjoying the process. It's a luxury and a privilege just to be going through this, to even be considered by the NFL."


As a Green Knight, Thompson-Meyers kicked a 55-yard field goal, tying the Midwest Conference record. He's the only kicker in conference history with two 50-plus-yard field goals. He finished his

college career with 38 made field goals and 176 point-after conversions – both SNC records. In practice, he was able to kick field goals from 60 to 65 yards out.

"This conference has never seen a talent like Spenser as a kicker," says **Bob DeKeyser**, special teams coordinator.

Thompson-Meyers is a two-time first-team All-American and a four-time first-team All-Midwest Conference selection.

"[Playing professionally] was always in the back of my mind," says Thompson-Meyers. "It's always a goal I've been striving for. But I mean, when it came down to it, I was just looking to do as good as I can in my college career and then everything beyond that would just figure itself out."

 Thompson-Meyers kicked himself into the record books, and the NFL took notice. snc.edu/magazine

New basketball coach takes helm of storied women's program

For the first time in more than 40 years, the St. Norbert College women's basketball team will have a new face at the helm. **Amanda Leonhard-Perry** has been named the new head coach, succeeding **Connie Tilley**, who retired after the last season.

Leonhard-Perry joins the Green Knights from the highly successful NCAA Division I program at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where she served as assistant coach. During her 11 seasons with the team, the Phoenix hammered out a 333-62 record.

"I'm so excited to get started. ... The players have a great energy and I believe they are hungry to continue the success of this program," Leonhard-Perry says.

Eric High
Associate Professor of Music

It's a Rath contrabass trombone – an English horn, pitched in the key of F. It can play very loud, and sound really ominous. In superhero movies, when there's a low threatening brass sound, chances are that's a mixture of tubas and contrabass trombones. It can also sound very mellow and sonorous.

There's sort of a fascination with it because it's so gargantuan. It's ... circus-like, it's so big.

There's a little entertainment value with it – I'm well aware of its effect on people! Contrabass trombones are still fairly rare here outside of the big recording areas, and they're not inexpensive. My students are pretty intrigued by it. I try to give them a chance to play it when they're ready. It might not be everybody's cup of tea but low-brass players are very interested in it. It's a great avenue for performing opportunities and to pursue my scholarship. If there's something that gives me the chance to do something different, well, it's this.

An active performer, Eric High joined the music faculty in 2005. His doctoral thesis on the contrabass trombone laid the foundation for his continuing scholarly connection to the instrument.



Wise women, funny women

Years ago, a student said to me, “You know what I love about you? It’s how funny you think you are!” She wasn’t wrong! I think I’m pretty funny and often enough I can at least amuse myself. “You could be a stand-up comic,” I’ve occasionally been told after presenting a workshop or giving a talk. I mostly receive that as a compliment though sometimes it does leave me asking if the more serious content I was attempting to convey also got through. But I recognize that when I was younger, I sometimes held back, worrying that my sense of humor might make me appear light, someone who didn’t need to be taken seriously. I had not yet fully understood the power and possibility humor holds.

But if there’s one thing I learned from the trinity of women in whose generative shadows I became the person I am, it’s that wise women can stand up and step up in part because they know when to laugh.

My paternal grandmother, Hildegard, was intelligent, hardworking, and a hostess *par excellence*. Among the treats she graciously provided were sugar cubes stocked in a brass-lidded dish. Perhaps they were intended for coffee. But we grandchildren routinely lifted the lid of the dish to access gems of melt-on-your-tongue sweetness. Grandma was known for her playful rhymes and riddles. “As I was walking down the stair, I met a man who wasn’t there. He wasn’t there again today. Gee, I wish he’d go away!” Of all the things Grandma would say that made me smile or laugh outright, my favorite was her playful barb delivered to Grandpa whenever he stepped out of line: “Miss on you, pister!”

My maternal grandmother, Helen, was of small stature and great spirit. Less a jokester than Hilde, she would make us laugh with her sheer feistiness. She was the most ruthless croquet player in the family and no grandchild was spared when she got the chance. With a slight smile, she would whack their ball as far out of play as possible. “Grandma,” we would plead, “Don’t you know that when your ball rolls into ours you have the option of taking another stroke instead?” The twinkle in her eye betrayed the fact that she knew; she definitely knew! At cards Grandma would fake sweet-old-lady confusion, sucking you in until you realized she understood all along. By then you were left in the

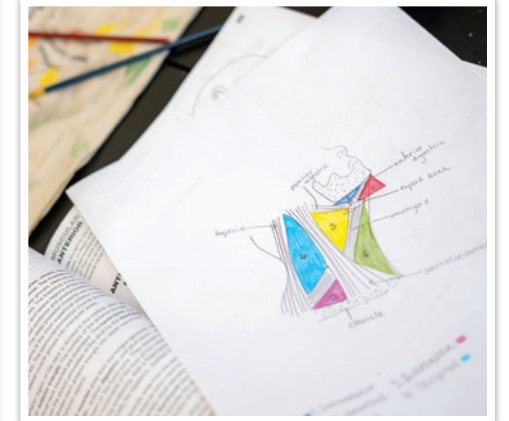
dust. And when you asked about parts of her life story – her experiences as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, or the day she went home from a dance with the man she would marry, even though she had gone there with someone else! – there was regularly the sparkle of delight and surprise in her stories.

Marcia, my mother, had Helen’s feistiness and a good dose of Hilde’s humor. In my early teen years, there was one particular night when our family of six was more than a bit raucous at the dinner table and our dad just wasn’t having it. I want to be clear that Dad was and is a patient, loving man. On the night in question, who knows? Maybe he’d had a bad day at work; children are blissfully ignorant of the weighty matters their parents carry. At any rate, the family was whooping it up at the table – talking over one another and laughing uproariously – when Dad slammed his fist down and declared, “The next person who can’t control their laughter should leave the table!” Stunned silence. Sideways glances. Then Mom wordlessly pushed her chair back from the table and left the room. Dad cracked a smile, then a small laugh escaped his lips. Mom returned in full belly laugh, and we all exhaled and joined in.

In my mid-twenties, there was a time when Mom and I got to the family cottage a day before the rest of the family, and we drank wine and talked and laughed until we cried. My mom left us too soon, when a ruptured brain aneurysm took her life in her 60th year. If I could have Mom back for one night, I’d choose that same setting, and we would talk about everything and nothing and laugh together. We’d laugh until we were a spent puddle, rejuvenated by perspective regained and joy recollected.

My grandmothers and mother showed me the power of humor. Humor challenges, and sometimes heals. It offers perspective. A good sense of humor requires the ability to discern whether something is small or large. Big things deserve big attention, but so many times we encounter small things pretending to be big – and they deserve to be called out by the town crier who lets us know when the emperor is in the buff. Humor makes space for joy and delight. It gives us the power to stand tall and boldly share ourselves with the world.

Julie (Donovan) Massey '87 has worked at St. Norbert, her alma mater, since 1998. She assumed her current role as associate vice president for mission and student affairs in 2016.



Visual learning

Students of **Deb Anderson** (Biology) had the opportunity to paint parts of the human anatomy on willing classmates. “We spent the first half hour reviewing our cadaver and the rest of the time was reserved to use the paints for whatever we wanted to practice,” says **Evan Dolan '19** (above). “The paints were used for anything that would help us review what we had learned, from muscles of the leg to muscles of the face, which, as you can imagine, was quite the sight to see. It was definitely an experience that will stick with me for some time – even after a couple of showers.”

Our inner workings revealed in BIOL 320: Human Anatomy & Histology. snc.edu/magazine



Hoover history

The Norbertines are the fourth owner of the home known as the Holy Spirit House of Studies for the past 56 years. It was built by the Hoover family.

“Speculation is that it is the Hoover family from the vacuum cleaners,” says the **Rev. Jim Baraniak '88**. “The letter ‘H’ is found on the woodwork, which works for us.”

The residence later became the home of Mayor Edward J. Kelly. The Norbertines purchased it from the third owner, the Carmelite Fathers.

“Every room is different,” says Baraniak. “We have several fireplaces. The stairs creak. We have a beautiful chapel in the basement. If you look at the blueprints, it was a very large room that had no purpose except to dry clothes. It now has life. We use it every day.”

In residence

Seven men currently live in community at the House of Studies: Baraniak, the **Rev. Patrick LaPacz '09**, **Deacon Jordan Neeck '11**, **Frater Johnathan Turba** and the **Rev. Binu Varghese** of St. Norbert Abbey; the **Rev. Gerard Jordan** of Daylesford Abbey; and **Patrick Bergin**, a Norbertine oblate of Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey.



A Chicago foothold for the Holy Spirit

If the No. 1 rule of real estate is location, it defines life at the Holy Spirit House of Studies. The Norbertine residence on the south side of Chicago sits within easy reach of bastions of learning and privilege on the one hand, tough neighborhoods on the other.

The House of Studies, off Lakeshore Drive, was originally purchased in 1963 for men studying for their doctorates. Loyola and DePaul Universities are nearby, and the University of Chicago is even closer. Since St. Norbert Abbey bought the house, men in priestly formation for the Norbertines have also found a home at the House of Studies. In 1968, Catholic Theological Union (CTU) opened in Hyde Park. “We joined on with CTU in their second year of existence,” explains the **Rev. Jim Baraniak '88**, who serves as full-time house superior and master of professed/director of priestly formation at the House of Studies. “How blessed we are that our men can literally walk to school, other than at night.”

This past year has marked a change for the house. **Abbot Dane Radecki '72** sought a stronger priestly presence, so Baraniak was appointed to Chicago. “Our men in formation spend their first two years in De Pere,” he explains. “They will then come down and will be with me for four years.”

The priests in the house serve at parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago. “I want us to be sent where nobody else will go,” says Baraniak, who first lived at the house 1989-93 as a student himself. “I am serving

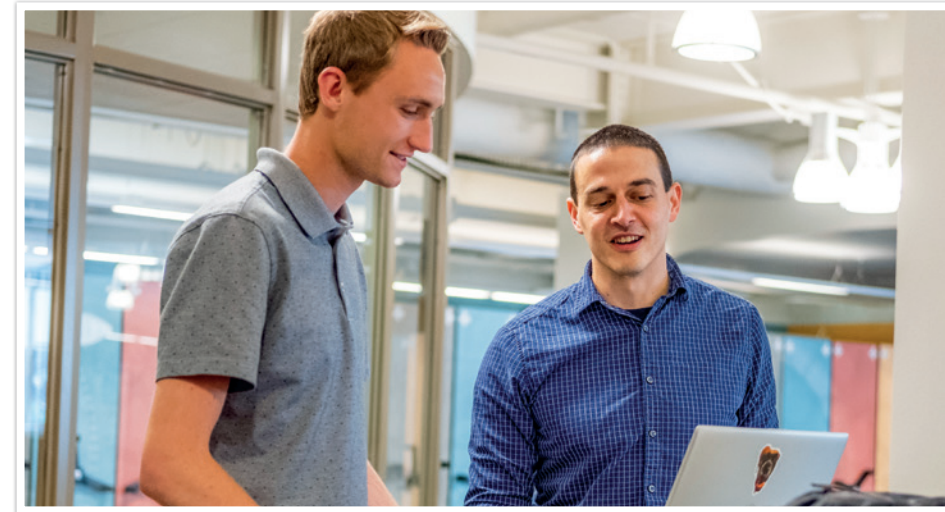
in one of the toughest neighborhoods in America, Brighton Park, at Immaculate Conception. There is urban violence and gang activity in this area. It has required me to shift gears and learn Spanish. I could only order a beer in Spanish prior to this experience. In October, I started doing Masses in Spanish. My goal is to start preaching in Spanish in July.

“**Frater Johnathan [Turba]** just began theology in the fall. He is beginning to assist me at Immaculate Conception Parish. He is fluent in Spanish. He has a mind for language. When people see two habits together, they see the brotherhood.”

Life at the house is much like life at St. Norbert Abbey, including morning prayer, evening prayer and daily Mass. (The men share in the cooking duties and Baraniak adds that he has taken on the role of janitor.) “I usually have Thursday mornings,” says the **Rev. Patrick LaPacz '09**, who is in his fifth year at the house, having graduated from CTU in May 2018. “I lead morning prayer and celebrate Mass. I usually make it back a couple times a week for evening prayer. It depends on my schedule at the parish.” LaPacz serves as associate pastor at St. Bede the Venerable.

Baraniak says: “We want to have a big foot in the house and a big foot out of the house. I’m happy that we are serving at the parishes, but formation of our young men is the primary ministry. What you learn at Holy Spirit is what we expect you to bring back to the abbey.”

Social goals score big



A partnership with a major-league soccer team has **Joseph Gasick '21** (left) striking deep into social media analytics as part of a collaborative research project with **Miles Condon** (Business Administration). The men are looking for connections between fan engagement with teams’ social media posts and their events – specifically whether increased engagement (i.e. likes, shares, etc.) on Facebook and other platforms are related in any way to game attendance.

With the assurance of confidentiality and questions from their client to answer, the two men laid out a plan. They gathered engagement metrics across several social media platforms for all teams, then analyzed that data by comparing it with attendance numbers from past seasons. Condon explains: “We found an interesting relationship between social media engagement and fan attendance. Although we cannot say that engagement leads to an increase in attendance [at this time], we can say that they are related.”

Their next steps are to employ a different methodology to determine whether the relationship they found is causal or, if it isn’t, to find exactly what explains the connection. The men also want to learn more about how external variables, like changes to Facebook’s policies or user perceptions of platforms, may affect fan usage of social apps.

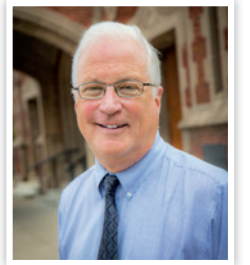
“The relationship between engagement on Facebook and attendance disappeared from 2017 to 2018,” says Condon. “There are several potential explanations for this, but the most interesting to me is that the recent privacy scandals have actually influenced how consumers engaged with the platform.”

The professor’s research interests lie in consumer behavior so pairing his experience with his student’s interest in this field as a future career path was a win-win. The pair began the project by discussing what Gasick wanted to accomplish and, as Condon says, “how we could get him to where he wanted to be.” Gasick went above and beyond, Condon adds. “He earned a social media certification very quickly, all while running 10-plus miles a day for track. It’s very rewarding seeing him learn more and become more competent about the research process and in being able to analyze data.”

Gasick was able to present on their initial findings on campus this spring. “It’s important to try something new and gain experience doing something that a future employer may require me to do,” he says. “I learned the entire research process and ... how to better manage my time between this project, an internship, track and field, and class.”

Summer cum laude

Conferring emeritus status on **Paul Wadell** (Theology & RS) as he moves into retirement this year signals, in fact, the start of a productive summer for this active scholar. Wadell expects to conclude his eighth



book, a partnership with Charles Pinches of the University of Scranton. The book deals with vocation and what it means – as well as what difference it makes – to envision ourselves and the shape of our lives in response to a multitude of callings. In addition (along with **Darin Davis**, formerly of the philosophy faculty at SNC) Wadell will present on fellowship at the storied Inklings Fellowship week at Oxford University in July.

Wadell joined the faculty at St. Norbert in 1998 and, as well as teaching in both undergraduate and Master of Theological Studies programs, has continued as a prolific writer and speaker, also serving as a leading voice in the active exploration of vocation. From its inception he has been a guiding force in NetVUE, the national organization for vocation in undergraduate education.

Honoring his colleague this spring, **Paul Johnson** (Philosophy), associate dean, said: “His résumé is impossibly long. His contributions are profuse, enriching and inspiring. His expertise and his generosity in sharing it are matched only by the virtue which is so frequently the theme of his talks: humility.” Wadell is this year’s recipient of the Burke Leadership Award, which, in the spirit of the **Rev. Dennis Burke '26**, second president, recognizes sustained leadership, commitment and excellence related to activities that have enhanced the college.

Next spring, Wadell will return to campus as one of the keynote speakers at the 2020 NetVUE national conference, hosted in March by SNC.



MAN ON FIRE

By Hannah O'Brien

A new biography of our founding saint explores a man constant in his faith yet contradictory in his ways and confounding to history.

As saints go, Norbert of Xanten is a relatively obscure one in the United States. Better-known in Europe, there's no question about the worldwide impact of the order he established – a movement that soon will celebrate its 900th year, with 90 or more houses of the order around the world carrying on his values. Still, few American Catholics recognize his name. And, as is often the case for someone who lived nearly a millennium ago, much of Norbert's life is clouded in myths and hagiography.

Those familiar with Norbert know him as a legendary peacemaker, a defender of the Eucharist and a strong-willed church reformer. But other characteristics of Norbert have been difficult to decipher. A new book by **President Emeritus Tom Kunkel**, "Man on Fire: The Life & Spirit of Norbert of Xanten," brings to life Norbert the man and shows that he, as most saints did, led a life that was emotional, conflicting and, frankly, a bit messy. In short, Norbert led a life that was altogether human.

"We have a culture of sainthood, for a good reason, that goes back to the beginning of the church, and it's very valuable to us," Kunkel says. "But it's also very wrongheaded and mystifying and shrouded in ignorance or mischaracterizations. These were people. These were people who had real problems and made real mistakes. ... But what they all had in common was that, at some point, they figured it out."



Drawing from history

Brother Martin Erspamer, O.S.B., a monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana, contributed the striking artwork gracing the cover and introducing each chapter of “Man on Fire.”

Erspamer, a well-known liturgical artist and consultant, wove into his illustrations the ginkgo tree, the type of tree planted 500 years after Norbert’s death at a convent in Doksany, in what is now the Czech Republic, during the progress that saw Norbert’s remains transported from Magdeburg to Prague. The tree stands yet today.

“The ginkgo leaf became a motif throughout the book,” Erspamer says. “I used it as a symbol of the flourishing of the order, each branch ending in one of the monastic foundations.”

Erspamer is one of many who helped bring “Man on Fire” to fruition. “I’m really proud that this came out of the college,” says the **Rev. Andrew Ciferni ‘64** of Daylesford Abbey, who contributed to the book in many ways. “This sort of thing [usually] comes from abbeys.” In addition to Ciferni, whom **Tom Kunkel** calls “the godfather of this book,” the author acknowledges the help of **Rosemary Sands** (Center for Norbertine Studies). The **Rev. Wilfried Grauwen**, of Postel Abbey (a Norbertine house in Belgium) and the **Rev. Theodore Antry** of Daylesford Abbey provided a multitude of resources. **Laura Treichel** (Office of Communications) designed the book with **Susan Allen**, director of the press, as editor and **Gretchen Panzer ‘12** as proof-reader.



The contradiction

Norbert’s life can be summarized in a few distinct phases: He was first a somewhat self-indulgent member of Henry V’s court, then a wandering preacher who gave away all his possessions to devote himself to the apostolic life, and then the archbishop of Magdeburg. Each phase of Norbert’s life challenged the previous.

“One of Norbert’s few constants ... was contradiction,” the book states.

But that’s what makes Norbert the human being so fascinating, Kunkel says. “The fact that he was a bundle of contradictions was very appealing for me. You just keep pulling back layer after layer after layer. With each separation, he just seemed more interesting.”

Even Norbert’s reputation as a peacemaker can be considered antithetical, as he often left controversy in his wake. Once considered to be a hedonistic young man, Norbert later devoted himself to the apostolic life. He then rebuked his fellow canons about their own self-indulgent ways – a move that led one young colleague to spit in Norbert’s face.

“He was a man of action, for sure, and he was not afraid to speak truth to power,” Kunkel says. “In fact, that’s one of the reasons he was always kind of given trouble.”

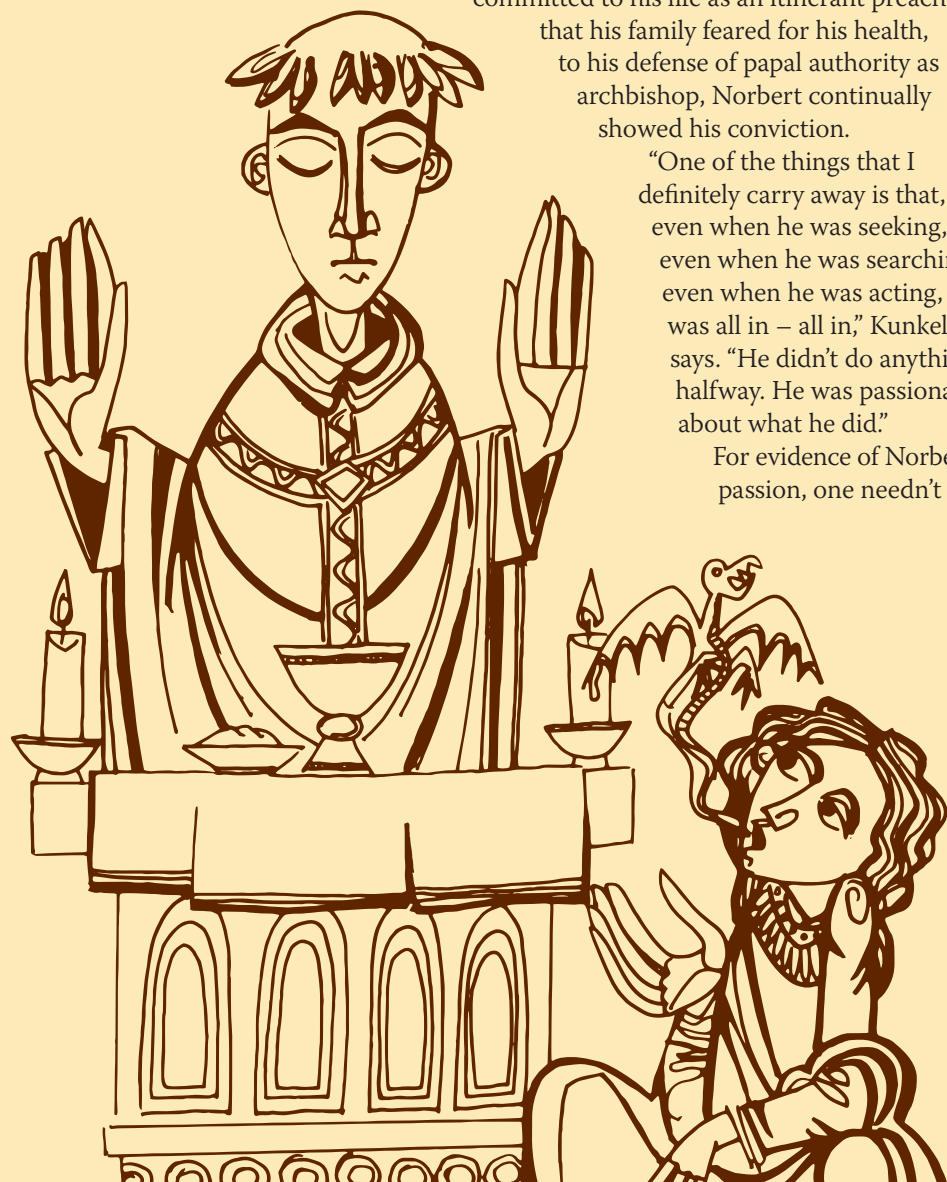
The impassioned

Any trouble Norbert was given also could be attributed to the ardent way in which he lived. Norbert was “an independent thinker with a stubborn streak,” the book states.

From confronting his colleagues, to being so committed to his life as an itinerant preacher that his family feared for his health, to his defense of papal authority as archbishop, Norbert continually showed his conviction.

“One of the things that I definitely carry away is that, even when he was seeking, even when he was searching, even when he was acting, he was all in – all in,” Kunkel says. “He didn’t do anything halfway. He was passionate about what he did.”

For evidence of Norbert’s passion, one needn’t



“Even when he was seeking, even when he was searching, even when he was acting, he was all in – all in.”

– President Emeritus Tom Kunkel

look much further than the Norbertine order itself. Norbert set to establish his own religious community in the remote woods of Prémontré, France, in 1120. Just six years later, the order included eight active foundations and had hundreds of members.

“That [growth] doesn’t happen without a great appeal and authenticity of message,” Kunkel says. Nor does it happen without strong leadership skills.

The man for all times

In today’s words, Kunkel says, Norbert would be called an entrepreneur, a world-class communicator and a powerbroker. Norbert displayed his savvy leadership abilities as he adapted and capitalized on new possibilities to expand the order.

“One of the reasons I was so taken with Norbert the person is that, even though he lived a millennium ago, he struck me as a very modern person or sensibility,” Kunkel says.

Norbert’s values and message help carry him into the modern age as well. The book states: “If Norbert was a wandering preacher today, it’s not hard to imagine the instruction he would offer us: Put your faith into action. Commit yourself to helping others. Be a peacemaker in your life.”

“Not many things in life last 900 years, and I don’t think anything lasts like that unless what’s at the core is real and true and valuable,” Kunkel says. “And certainly, I think Norbert’s values were all of those things. He was first and foremost a person of peace. And I think that if he were alive today, one of the things he would undoubtedly be doing would be trying to urge people to suppress their anger and their resentment and the pettiness, and surface their humanity and the Christian ideals of charity and help, and to just work really hard to get us so that we’re past the acrimony. In the same way he was trying to help people in his time, keep them from killing one another, I think he would be working with us today to keep us from hating one another.” ❁



Buying the book

“Man on Fire: The Life & Spirit of Norbert of Xanten” was published by St. Norbert College Press in association with the Center for Norbertine Studies. The book is available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or from the SNC bookstore on campus and online at snc.edu/bookstore.

Our excerpt delivers a telling episode in the saint’s life and a chance to enjoy Kunkel’s compelling prose. Chapter Four: The Wander-prediger deals with Norbert’s spell as an itinerant preacher. snc.edu/magazine

Making sense of Norbert



It wasn’t until he retired as president of St. Norbert College in 2017 that **Tom Kunkel** set to putting on paper the life of the saint for

whom the college is named. But it was early in Kunkel’s nine-year presidency that he and others recognized the need for a book that told Norbert’s story in an easy, accessible way.

“The stuff that’s been available hasn’t been fun to read and really requires an effort,” says **Rosemary Sands** (CNS). Much of Norbert’s history is written in Latin, and translations can make distilling a picture of Norbert difficult. “It’s stilted. ... It’s just hard language and it really doesn’t make Norbert come alive,” she says.

Kunkel hopes “Man on Fire” will remedy that and provide the necessary context for

the Norbertine way of life. “We talk about Norbertine values and traditions all the time, but to really be able to go to the source and have the time and the resources, the opportunity, to get at who that was, was really a blessing for me,” he says.

Sands will use the book in her *Communio* and the Norbertines Across the Centuries course.

Tom Kunkel and **Judy (Sprangers) Turba ‘76** talk about the writing of “Man on Fire” with **Fraters Johnathan Turba** and **Jordan Neeck ‘11**. snc.edu/magazine

In case of EMERGENCY

By Dan Flannery



His country mourned, and for **Jamie O'Brien** (Business Administration) the tragedy lingered in his heart and mind. Now his case study on the Air France 447 disaster can be studied in management courses around the world. Above with O'Brien, **Dana Fliss '19** (left), **Samantha Van Dreese '19** and **Peter Meyer '19**.

Classroom teaching can be done from a theoretical distance; removed by time, technology and humanity to the point that a real-life, relatable event isn't much more than black words on a white textbook page.

That is, dry and antiseptic.

Jamie O'Brien (Business Administration) recognizes the danger. But he never wants to feel unfulfilled about the business management courses he teaches.

"Two years into my time here at the college, I was boring myself," he says. "And if I was bored, I knew there was a chance that the students could be bored, too. What I was doing in the classroom didn't feel like the most effective way to think about helping the students learn."

In autumn 2016, O'Brien made a course correction that stamped the lessons of humanity on his classes and, ultimately, allowed his students to step into the cockpit of Air France 447 before it met its doom. The real life Rio-to-Paris flight, in an Airbus A330, ended in the Atlantic Ocean on June 1, 2009. All 228 passengers and crew members died.

The lessons of Air France 447, a horrific story filled with business and communications scenarios, are all about life and death.

While O'Brien didn't write the book on the tragedy – others have – he did write the first case study (with teaching notes) on the disaster, published this spring in the prestigious *CASE Journal*. He uses his AF447 case study as part of his classroom shift from lecture presentations to full-class discussions.

The reviews from students are glowing.

"This reality-based learning has gone beyond simply defining a term or concept and explains why and how it is relevant to real-world situations," says **Bradley Bermke '19**. "I absolutely believe that by taking this class, I better understand how I can use the information and knowledge I absorbed in this course and apply it to my life."

"A classroom culture that encourages the students to share their past workplace and life experiences has a way of enriching each person that's involved," says **Samantha Van Dreese '19**.

O'Brien had nonclinical reasons to write the AF447 case study. Three crash victims were from his native Ireland, doctors who were celebrating their accomplishments and their futures. They were Jane Deasy, 26; Aisling Butler, 26; and Eithne Walls, 27.

"Not to diminish any of the other folks who were killed in the crash, but it was extra sad because the three Irish women who were onboard, after coming out of medical school, were in Rio, in Brazil, celebrating getting their MDs," says O'Brien, who earned his Ph.D. from the University of Limerick, Ireland, in 2012.

"Ireland's a small country. It's the size of Indiana, almost to the square mile. It's 4 million people. It is a small island. So, when a tragedy like that happens, everybody feels it."

For roughly two years – from the time of the crash to the time the "black box" recorders miraculously were found by robot submarines, thousands of feet deep in the Atlantic Ocean – the reason for the crash was a mystery.

The Airbus A330 is one of the world's most advanced and capable aircraft. The flight path from Brazil to France is common. The cockpit was manned by two experienced co-pilots and a veteran captain who himself had more than 11,000 hours of flight time, including 1,700 hours on the A330. Neither terrorism nor untoward behavior onboard the aircraft was suspected as a cause for the crash.

The recorders held the answer. Words frantically exchanged in the cockpit in the final 15 minutes of AF447 – a chilling and frustrating conversation that screams volumes about avoidable confusion, decision-making in stressful conditions, protocols of leadership, and the frailty of human beings.

Human error was determined as the major cause of AF447's demise. "They reacted about as wrong as you could react to a situation," O'Brien says.

Mechanical issues – most notably ice crystals that formed in external sensors that determine air speed – were not mitigated by manual methods, although most of the challenges were common issues for experienced pilots.



Briefing: Air France 447

In the early morning of June 1, 2009, 228 passengers and crew members on Air France flight 447 died in the Atlantic Ocean on a scheduled flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris.

The Bureau of Enquiry & Analysis for Civil Aviation Safety, the French agency that investigated the incident, attributed the tragedy to human error by the crew of three pilots in charge of the Airbus A330 jet. The aircraft's speed sensors (known as "pitot tubes") became iced, which disengaged the autopilot, but the pilots reacted incorrectly to the resultant lack of instrumentation.

Based on transcripts of the cockpit conversation, the pilots did not seem to understand the problems that were caused by their errant reactions, and often reacted independently rather than as a team. That confusion and dysfunction led to the jet's plunge into the Atlantic, roughly 15 minutes after the issues became obvious to the pilots.

The cause of the crash remained a mystery for almost two years, until the A330's "black box" recorders were discovered by robot submarines in April 2011.

“That story, in my mind, was really good at answering questions about human decision-making and decision-making errors,” O’Brien says. “The bulk of the case is the final 10-minute conversation between the pilots, which is harrowing. ... You see these two men struggling to figure out what is a very simple problem for most pilots.”

In late 2017, as O’Brien was redesigning his SNC classes, he sought a case study of AF447 for his teaching purposes. He found none.

“To my shock – horror might be the word – nobody had written about this case, and I could not fathom that,” he says, “because in my mind, and maybe it was because I was slightly infatuated with this, this was the perfect case to get at that problem in the class. So, I thought, ‘I’ll write it.’”

O’Brien’s case study, relying heavily on that fateful discussion among pilots, played a starring role in his Fall 2018 Strategic Management Capstone Seminar.

“The Air France case really made an impact on me personally because it made me realize that strategic-management examples are not only found in a business setting; there are ways to effectively lead a team in so many aspects of life,” says Dana Fliss ’19, a student in the Strategic Management class.

O’Brien intends to steer all his classes

to a case-study discussion model. He augments those conversations with video-based podcasts that focus on the theory behind the real-world examples he and students discuss, applying to each essential management tenets and an uber-detailed syllabus that leaves little room for not understanding his expectations.

“This format not only engaged the class by providing well-known, real-world situations,” says Peter Meyer ’19, also taking Strategic Management, “but the cases also intertwined with key concepts that made the material more relatable and memorable. Months later, I can still recall the concepts gained from the specific case stories presented by Dr. O’Brien – making me confident that this style of hands-on-learning has been beneficial in my college experience.”

“I had Prof. O’Brien in two separate classes where he used case studies instead of lecturing,” says Tyler Takahashi ’19. “I found it much easier to not only pay attention in class, but also easier to retain that information and be able to apply it in the real world.”

“Some of the concepts we discussed included cognitive bias, overconfidence bias, recency effect, diagnosis bias, and complex systems,” Van Dreese says. “Throughout the course of the semester, our class dynamic shifted rapidly from contributing to class discussion out of



The aircraft’s speed sensors (known as “pitot tubes”) are located under the nose of the plane. If they ice over, as happened during the doomed Air France 447 flight, the autopilot disengages and the crew needs to take control of the plane.

obligation and more towards desire to share our insights with one another.”

For O’Brien, this is gratifying and a welcome relief from lecture-based classes.

“Students weren’t reading textbooks,” he says. “And you can sort of hold them accountable for reading by doing quizzes. But the quizzes just turned into a means to an end. They were just doing the quiz; they weren’t really reading [the textbook] with any mind to understand the material. To be able to use this case in class with my students was the perfect storm of bringing my research and my teaching together in a way that was so rewarding, in a way I hadn’t been able to do before.” ♣

We’re looking at a PACKED SUMMER

By Susan Allen



Aaah, the long, lazy days of summer ... time for the beach, the cabin, the fishing trip; time for family and friends; time, too, for meditative afternoons alone with a book. Our St. Norbert friends make time to enjoy the season. But the tote they grab as they head out for a sunny day is packed with more than their water wings and sunscreen. Their plans are rich and diverse, and they pack accordingly!

Making (and sharing) the case for an excellent learning experience

“Mystery Over the Atlantic: The Tragic Fate of Air France Flight 447,” a case study by Jamie O’Brien of the June 1, 2009, aviation tragedy, was published in the Spring 2019 issue of The CASE Journal.

The 24-page case study includes 10 pages of teaching notes, giving educators a guide for implementation of the material for their classes. O’Brien offers related readings, class-discussion questions, and analysis of the case and business-related issues and behaviors that shape the case.

O’Brien is an associate professor of business administration-management at St. Norbert and associate dean of SNC’s Schneider School of Business & Economics. His primary areas of teaching are leading change, organizational behavior, strategic management and knowledge management.

Ready to share in the classroom experience? Read the study for yourself. snc.edu/magazine.

Mystery over the Atlantic: the tragic fate of Air France Flight 447

Jamie O'Brien

Introduction
On June 1, 2009, an Airbus A330-300, flight AF447, the captain of Air France 447 left the gate to take a flight from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to Paris, France. The flight was scheduled to arrive in Paris at 11:00 AM. The flight was delayed for several hours due to a problem with the aircraft's speed sensors (pitot tubes). The aircraft was forced to land in Gwanakou, Gabon, on June 4, 2009. The aircraft was damaged and the crew was rescued. The aircraft was later found to have crashed in the Atlantic Ocean on June 24, 2009. The cause of the crash was determined to be an ice-over of the pitot tubes.

Synopsis of the final minutes of Air France 447
At 1:11 and 30 seconds into the flight, the aircraft entered the clear air turbulence (CAT) region. At 1:17, the right outer wing dropped. At 1:18, the left outer wing dropped. At 1:19, the aircraft rolled to the right. At 1:20, the aircraft pitched down. At 1:21, the aircraft stalled. At 1:22, the aircraft crashed into the Atlantic Ocean. The aircraft was found on June 24, 2009. The cause of the crash was determined to be an ice-over of the pitot tubes.



Photo courtesy Monica Sawyn, The Compass

Living large ...

... for the good of all! **Scott Crevier** (ITS) joins the Rosary Run Motorcycle Ride, a clean-water fundraiser for wells in Nicaraguan communities. The bikers visit five sacred sites, saying a decade of the rosary at each one.

... **Carol (Sessler) Bruess '90** volunteers as a surgical tech at an orphanage in Honduras with her college-age children.

... **Hattie Kruschek '21** works in Israel with Save a Child's Heart. The organization provides lifesaving cardiac care to children from developing countries. She plans activities for children undergoing heart surgery, comforts parents and oversees other volunteers.

... **Julia Rottman '22** interns as a fundraiser at NPH USA, giving at-risk children safe homes.

Days in the sun

- Amusement park: **Erika Ditzman '21** runs the rides at Bay Beach when not interning at this magazine.
- Trail: **Lee Reid** (ITS) is looking forward to getting out on his bike, riding the Fox River Trail, picking up frozen custard at Zesty's (see page 31) and taking in an outdoor concert or two at Knights on the Fox.
- Summer camp: "Three lefts and a few rights, *voilà!* you're four hours away at Swift Nature Camp in Minong, Wis.," says camp counselor **SarahEllen Sankey '21**. Classmate **Kylie Pederson '21** is working in the Rockies at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, Colo.



A season that never quits

Emily Thornton '20 has a class, a job and an internship. The online class is COME 320: Crisis Communication, the job is at a country club, and the internship at Sarah Kathleen Events is the next rung on the ladder to her dream job as an event planner. She's also making time for two vacations and a trip to the cottage.

FAVORITE FOOD: fresh fruit at the beach

TAKE-ALONGS: deck of cards, coloring book, great time-management skills!



Cool drink

Katie Ries (Art) recommends Sally Payne's Special Iced Tea

- 8 bags Bigelow Plantation Mint tea
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups orange juice
- 1/3 cup lemon juice

Brew tea bags with plenty of water. Add sugar while the water is hot and stir. Let cool. Strain tea bags and discard. Add orange juice and lemon juice. Serve with ice.

Gets better after it's had time to set in the refrigerator!

Flying high

- Private pilot **Ben Van Handel '20** is interning at Daher Aerospace in Tarbes, France. The experience includes a visit to the Paris Air Show and participation with the Daher team at the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh event back home in Wisconsin.



European adventures

- In Ireland: **Joel Mann** (Philosophy) and **John Neary** (English, Emeritus), for PHIL 389: The Philosophy of Joyce's "Ulysses."
- In Spain: **Derek Elkins** and **Rebecca Lahti '00** (Emmaus Center) with **Rosemary Sands** (CNS), for HUMA 389: Walking the Camino; **Katie Ginsbach** (Spanish), visiting partner sites for SNC's study-abroad experiences with faculty colleague **Shalisa Collins**. On Ginsbach's shopping list: spices, cheese, books and Spanish candy.
- In Sweden: **Bob Osgood** (Education) for SSCI 389: Special Topics.
- In France: **Sarah Parks** (Music) for a choral conducting workshop; **Katie Schluetter '14**, to compete in the Crossfit French Throwdown – one of six American women to qualify. (She recommends Teddy Grahams for fueling performance.)
- In several countries: **Michael Lovano**, travelling across southern Europe; **Lucy Arendt** (Business) for BUAD 340: Leadership Lessons from WWI and WWII; **Ben Huegel** (Accounting) and **Marc Schaffer** (Economics) for ECON 355: International Economics in the European Union.

Road trip!

Brad Ellis (Spanish) is visiting friends (in Madrid and Seville, Spain) from his own study-abroad days as a student. And, he's continuing his research on the Moriscos (Muslim converts to Christianity and their descendants) and their relationships and friendships with Old Christians in 16th-century Spain.

READING FOR THE ROAD: "Don Quijote de la Mancha" (he re-reads it every year).

SOUNDTRACK: The Rolling Stones. He sees the band live this month in Chicago. "This will be the ninth time I have seen them, and they only get better!"

TAKE-ALONG: "Inner peace and gratitude for everyone and everything I have in my life."



All the time in the world for ...

... genealogical research: **Cheryl Carpenter-Siegel** (Sociology). She'll be packing family albums and family history materials – and her aunt's molasses cookies.

... kayaking: **Marc von der Ruhr** (Economics). "While I am a total music nerd, nature always provides the soundtrack when I paddle."

... thrifting: **Sarah Titus '12**, **Connie Meulemans**, **Ivy Summers**, **Alaina Morales** and **Jenny Patton '17** (Library).





Leading your best life

Seth Meyer (Math) will be studying an application of linear algebra with **Jessica Pomplun '21** and **Joshua Schill '19** through the Poss-Wroble Fellowship. Meyer plans to maintain a good ratio between work and play, all the same. A semi-professional ultimate Frisbee player, he'll be playing through the season with the Madison Radicals.

TAKE-ALONGS: soccer ball, Frisbee and his four young children.

Busman's holiday

- **Karen Park** (Theology & RS), visiting the national shrine basilica of Our Lady of Fatima for her work on Marian shrines. Faculty colleague **Paul Wadell**, completing a book manuscript on living vocationally.
- **April Beiswenger** and **Stephen Rupsch** (Theatre Studies), presenting plays through their company, Theatre Z.
- Biology major **Skye Mager '19**, interning at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center In Juno Beach, Fla.



Fit for summer

Abby Gildernick '14 (Athletics) has missed only one Pink Flamingo Softball tournament in the last 27 years. (Her team owns the last two championships.) The De Pere event has raised more than \$1 million for the community.

Liz Miller (Finance) is training for the Chicago, NYC and Boston marathons.

Erik Brekke (Physics) will be playing ultimate Frisbee with his team of SNC faculty and spouses. (Team name: Not That Kind of Doctor.)



Lines from a Camino journal

The sun wakes up
And our groggy souls rise to greet her.
We hustle, as flowers sleep.
They slowly stretch open, smiling at us.
The ground echoes back our journey
While giants still lay at rest, their bodies kissing the sky.
A comfort covers the countryside, sighing.
The pores of stone walls graze our fingers
As arrows of sunshine anxiously await our arrival.

— **Evie Zaker '20**, Global Seminar

A winning career



A resounding voice and dramatic flair behind the mic made **Tom Durkin '72** one of the most revered horse-race announcers to call the sport. He's best known as the voice of the Breeders' Cup from its start in 1984 through 2005.

His 43-year career kicked off in 1971 when he was invited to call quarter-horse and thoroughbred races at county fairs in Wisconsin. Since then, he's called races at more than 50 tracks in six countries.

Durkin retired in 2014 and now spends his time giving tours at the National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., acting in his local community theatre, sitting on a few charitable boards, and traveling to Italy.

Durkin crosses the finish line



More than four decades since he was a St. Norbert College student, **Tom Durkin** (above, right) walked across the stage at May's Commencement ceremony as a graduate.

At 68 years old, the well-known horse-race caller, now retired, is the oldest St. Norbert grad on record.

Durkin attended St. Norbert from 1968-73, but he left the college just two courses shy of completing his degree. He built a successful career in sportscasting, calling more than 80,000 horse races in America and Europe, including the infamous Triple Crown races – the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes. His reputation and connection with St. Norbert led former SNC **President Thomas Manion** to present him with an honorary degree in 2002.

But all that didn't stop Durkin from completing the baccalaureate degree he set out to earn 51 years before.

"I was always a little disappointed that my parents didn't get to see this horse come in," says Durkin. "It always bugged me, but I felt good about going back."

Durkin enrolled at State University of New York's Adirondack campus last fall, completing courses in psychology and cultural anthropology and transferring the credits for those classes back to SNC. He earned A's in both courses.

"I was also an ancient compared to those 18-year-olds," he chuckles. "I was almost the subject of study in our anthropology class."

Durkin admits that college wasn't always the easiest for him. But, after taking a semester off in 1969, he returned to SNC to study theatre. When he was cast for the title role in Moliere's "Tartuffe," things began to shift in the right direction. The first week of rehearsals was tough, but **Kelly Collum** (Theatre Studies, Emeritus) sparked new life in Durkin. When rehearsals weren't going well, Collum would jump up and shout, "Energy! Energy! Energy!" A simple phrase, but one that Durkin says had a profound impact on all he's done since.

"He drilled those three words into me," he says. "I used to write them down on every [horse race] program I called just to remind me of all the good things that can come when you have energy."

Looking back at his career, Durkin attributes his success to SNC and a liberal arts education.

"There's no place in the world where they teach people how to call horse races," he shares. "I drew upon critical thinking and a wide variety of subjects ... music, literature and neurological science, believe it or not, because memorization is very important in calling races."



Lisa (Weill) Benkowski '89, who died in 2003, motivated research that could have a profound impact on colon cancer treatment. Photo courtesy Mike Benkowski '89

A life that inspired

Lisa (Weill) Benkowski '89 had a commitment to scientific discovery and a dream to publish research in the journal *Science*. After being diagnosed with colon cancer, her life was cut short in 2003 at age 36 – but, seven years after her death, *Science* would indeed publish research that Benkowski inspired.

The report “Alleviating Cancer Drug Toxicity by Inhibiting a Bacterial Enzyme” was authored by Matthew Redinbo and his graduate students. The inspiration for the research behind it came from Benkowski, Redinbo’s colleague at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“My life was changed when I heard she was sick,” Redinbo says in an interview with American Public Media’s *The Story*.

“A good department, like any good group of people who work together, is like a family,” he adds. “And when somebody gets sick, it’s one of your family members getting sick. And when they pass away, it’s something that you feel very deeply.”

Redinbo’s research focused on the common cancer drug CPT-11 and its side effects. When Benkowski shared her own experiences with the drug, Redinbo and his team of researchers shifted their focus to the drug’s effect on intestinal bacteria. They later discovered a way to target and block an intestinal enzyme believed to have a major role in CPT-11’s debilitating side effects.

“When you see that sort of suffering, you think carefully about is there a way you could intervene,” Redinbo says. “We’d not have done this with the same vigor had I not known what she had gone through.”

Mike Benkowski '89, Lisa’s husband, was not surprised to learn his wife had left a lasting impression on her colleague. “She was not your typical scientist,” he says. “She was bubbly, effervescent, just a fun person to be around.”

Births/ Adoptions

1995 Beth (Ryan) and Matt **Lunow**, New Berlin, Wis., twin boys, Ryan and Jack, Dec. 21, 2018. Ryan and Jack join siblings Luke, 8, Grace, 4, and Claire, 2.

2001 Kristin (Lindbloom) and Steve **Warden**, Suamico, Wis., a daughter, Alayna Kay, April 11, 2018. Alayna joins sisters Madison, 11, Isabelle, 6, Allison, 4, and Makenna, 2.

2003 Brooke (Van Lanen) and Andrew **Hermesen**, a daughter, Harper Quinn, Aug. 21, 2018.

2003 Jennifer (Stay) and Greg **Bastien**, Green Bay, a son, Carter James, Oct. 17, 2018. Carter joins siblings Parker, 6, Cora, 4, and Bailey, 4.

2005 Jennifer (Lutz) and James **Herald '05**, New Berlin, Wis., a daughter, Teresa “Tessa” Katherine, Dec. 16, 2018. Tessa joins brother Reid, 3.

2006 Michelle (Murray) and Nick **Heer '06**, Lombard, Ill., a son, Quinn, June 5, 2018. Quinn joins brothers Jameson, 6, Seamus, 6, and Finnegan, 2.

2006 Eric and Samantha **Wagner**, De Pere, a daughter, Reilly Barbara, April 23, 2019. Reilly joins brother James, 2.

2007 Kathryn Heitman and Mark **Moore**, Lyndon Station, Wis., a son, Christopher Dale, Nov. 20, 2018. Christopher joins brother Alexander, 2.

2007 Zachary Willis and Matthew **Rahil**, Denver, a son, Lachlan, Nov. 21, 2018.

2008 Angie (Runingen) and **Luke Sadowsky '07**, Germantown, Wis., a son, Isaiah, Feb. 8, 2019. Isaiah joins sister Abigail, 3.

2009 Tara (Marcell) and **Garrett Lancelle '10**, Weston, Wis., a son, Jasper James, March 23, 2018. Jasper joins siblings Gavin, 5, and Isabelle, 3.

2009 Laura (Weber) and Michael **Spruce**, Colorado Springs, Colo., a daughter, Frances “Frankie,” Dec. 1, 2018.

2010 Dr. Elizabeth Holt and **Justin Cartier '10**, Oshkosh, Wis., a son, Lucas, May 3, 2018.

2010 Alex and Kelly **Kocken**, De Pere, a son, Fulton, Aug. 10, 2018. Fulton joins sisters Brynn, 3, and Oakley, 2.

2011 Justin and Casey **Baker**, Denmark, Wis., a daughter, Delaney, Oct. 5, 2018.

2011 Keytelynne (Gribben) and Mark **Radde**, Minneapolis, a son, Jack, Jan. 4, 2019.

2012 Jackie (Thornton) and **Thomas Fioritto '11**, Urbandale, Idaho, a boy, Henry Thomas, Sept. 21, 2018.

2012 Sami (Schurhammer) and **Ryan Gaughan '11**, Elmhurst, Ill., a daughter, Kennedy, March 10, 2019.

Marriages

2005 Betsy Fryda and Nathan **Radue**, Aug. 25, 2018. They live in Milwaukee.

2005 Maribeth Frinzi and Sean **Franken**, Nov. 17, 2018. They live in Green Bay.

2008 Stefanie Fish and Daniel **Lindstrom**, July 28, 2018. They live in Baileys Harbor, Wis.

2009 Bridgette Flasch and Garrett **Quandt**, Oct. 20, 2018. They live in New Glarus, Wis.

2009 Johanna Panzer and Christoph **Paykowski**, Feb. 2, 2019. They live in Berlin.

2010 Stephanie Zellner and Travis **Jones**, Oct. 20, 2018. They live in Muskego, Wis.

2011 Paige Caulum and Cody **Michels**, Aug. 4, 2018. They live in Madison, Wis.

2016 Elizabeth Pfantz and Samuel **Hokamp**, June 2, 2018. They live in Appleton, Wis.

2017 Emily Olsen and Dillon **Tycz**, Oct. 10, 2018. They live in Green Bay.

Deaths

1949 John Melchior, of West Bend, Wis., died May 16, 2018, at the age of 89. He worked for many years at Miller Brewing Co. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and three children.

1950 Kenneth Kraemer, of La Farge, Wis., died Nov. 4, 2018, at the age of 93. He served with the Navy Seabees in the South Pacific during WWII. He spent his career at Standard Oil Co. He is survived by a daughter.

1951 Carroll Willems, of De Pere, died Oct. 29, 2018, at the age of 91. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII, stationed in Germany. He spent his career in accounting with auto dealers and home builders. He is survived by nine children.

1951 Donald Smits, of Green Bay, died Nov. 20, 2018, at the age of 88. He served as a sergeant in the Marines, stationed in both Hawaii and California. He worked with Standard Oil, International Harvester, Milprint and Diana Manufacturing. He is survived by his wife, Dwyn, and four children.

1952 William Mistele, of Roanoke, Va., died Dec. 12, 2018, at the age of 91. He established his own commercial lighting business, Lighting Agency. He is survived by his wife, Anna, and three children.

1954 Richard Novy, of Erie, Colo., died Nov. 17, 2018, at the age of 90. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He worked at Mirro Aluminum Co. He is survived by three children.

1955 Brig. Gen. Carl L. Newhouse, of Kaukauna, Wis., died Feb. 19, 2019, at the age of 85. He served in the U.S. Army and worked with Thilmany Paper Co. and International Paper Co. He received an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from St. Norbert in May 2013. He is survived by his wife, Carol, four children and six stepchildren.

1956 John Brogan, of Green Bay, died Oct. 13, 2018, at the age of 84. He served in the military during the Vietnam War. He worked for Citizens Securities, later acquiring the Bank of Kaukauna with his brother and founding Wisconsin Converting. He is survived by his wife, Gisela, and a daughter.

1956 Robert Neja, of West Bend, Wis.,

died Oct. 14, 2018, at the age of 84. He served in the U.S. Army before teaching biology and coaching various sports at Messmer High School, Milwaukee, and West Bend East High School. He is survived by his wife, Anne, and four children.

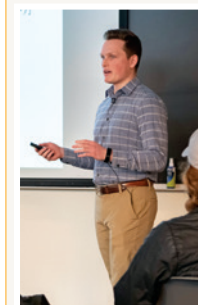
1956 Arthur Fisher, of Morrison, Colo., died Oct. 28, 2018, at the age of 74. He established his own commercial lighting business, Lighting Agency. He is survived by his wife, Anna, and three children.

1956 Lt. Col. Herman Richardson, of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, died Jan. 24, 2019, at the age of 83. He served in the U.S. Army in the United States, France, Germany and Vietnam. He worked as deputy commissioner of health for hospitals, commissioner of property and procurement, and assistant commissioner for planning and resources for the government of the Virgin Islands. He is survived by three sons.

1957 John Ahern Jr., of Greenleaf, Wis., died Feb. 12, 2019, at the age of 83. He worked in banking in Chicago; at Peerless Milling in Fond du Lac, Wis.; and at J.F. Ahern Co., where he most recently was chairman emeritus. He served as president of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America and of Wisconsin, and as president or director of many organizations in the Fond du Lac area. He is survived by five children, including **Anthony '91** and **Margaret Murphy '94**.

1959 Gerald Putman, of Oshkosh, Wis., died Nov. 26, 2017, at the age of 82. He served in the U.S. Army and worked for Winnebago (Wis.) County Social Services in the child protection department. He is survived by two daughters.

1959 Kathleen (Burns) Feller, of Appleton, Wis., died Jan. 7, 2019, at the age of 81. She worked in Pulaski, Freedom and Stockbridge schools in Wisconsin, teaching



Sam Potier '17 stopped by campus to talk astrophysics with St. Norbert students. **Michael Olson** (Physics) invited **Potier**, who is working toward his doctorate at the University of Notre Dame, to share information related to his work on developing adaptive optics for large ground-based telescopes.

and was stationed in both Pensacola, Fla., and Grosse Isle, Mich. He worked for Krueger International and Lake to Lake Dairy/Land O'Lakes Inc., retiring as chief accountant. He is survived by four children, including **Lori Bradshaw '87**.

1959 Jerome Rottier, of Eau Claire, Wis., died Nov. 30, 2018, at the age of 79. He served in the U.S. Army and taught math at Bellevue (Neb.) High School, later serving as principal of DeForest (Wis.) High School. He worked in various schools across the country to improve teaching and delivery models within middle-school education. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, and three children.

1962 Raymond Becker, of Dillard, Ga., died April 2, 2018, at the age of 78. He served as president of

English and library science. She was the wife of the late **Bill Feller '60** and sister of the late **Jim Burns '56**. She is survived by her sister **Joanne Burns '54**, SNC trustee emerita.

1959 James Nault, of Tampa, Fla., died Jan. 9, 2019, at the age of 82. He served two years in the U.S. Army. He worked in marketing and management at Employers Mutual of Wausau, Wis., and as president and CEO of Great Western Sugar in Denver. He is survived by his wife, **Mary '60**, and five children.

1959 Russell Gilson, of Tinton Falls, N.J., died Jan. 16, 2019, at the age of 81. He served as an electrical engineer for the Army at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and as a database developer at DBL Associates in Eatontown, N.J. He is survived by three children.

1961 Robert Rolley, of Green Bay, died Nov. 1, 2018, at the age of 79. He was the owner of Musician’s Repair & Supply and Northern Inventory Service. He is survived by his wife, Linda, and two daughters.

1961 Jerome Rottier, of Eau Claire, Wis., died Nov. 30, 2018, at the age of 79. He served in the U.S. Army and taught math at Bellevue (Neb.) High School, later serving as principal of DeForest (Wis.) High School. He worked in various schools across the country to improve teaching and delivery models within middle-school education. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, and three children.

1962 Thomas Schumann, of New Berlin, Wis., died Nov. 3, 2018, at the age of 75. He served in the U.S. Army in Thailand and later worked as vice president of human resources at Sta-Rite/WICOR Industries. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, and three children.

1962 Raymond Becker, of Dillard, Ga., died April 2, 2018, at the age of 78. He served as president of

CCI Merchant Services in Northbrook, Ill. He is survived by two children.

1962 Mary (Van Bellinger) Neville, of Green Bay, died Sept. 21, 2018, at the age of 78. She taught at Annunciation Catholic Grade School and later worked for Wisconsin Public Service. She is survived by her husband, Harold, and two children.

1962 David Entringer, of Sheboygan, Wis., died Nov. 26, 2018, at the age of 78. He worked at NCR Corp. as an electrical field engineer before establishing his own business where he sold, installed and serviced satellite systems for both residences and businesses. He also worked as a bus driver for the Luxemburg-Casco school district. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and seven children.

1964 Kathryn (Van Dam) Vann, of Green Bay, died Oct. 6, 2018, at the age of 76. She worked as an educator in the Ganado (Ariz.) School District for many years. She is survived by two daughters.

1964 Marguerite Burdon, of Green Bay, died Jan. 11, 2019, at the age of 78. She taught English for many years at Green Bay Preble and Green Bay East high schools. She is survived by a daughter and by her sister, **Mary Maginniss '68**.

1965 Thomas Schumann, of New Berlin, Wis., died Nov. 3, 2018, at the age of 75. He served in the U.S. Army in Thailand and later worked as vice president of human resources at Sta-Rite/WICOR Industries. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, and three children.

Ted Ziemann '05



Finds the sweet spot

With a passion for cooking and an affinity for business, Ted Ziemann '05 combines his talents as co-owner of Zesty's Frozen Custard & Grill, with three locations in the Green Bay area, and president of Ziemann Commercial Properties. He entered the frozen dessert business 11 years ago.

Brain freeze When I graduated, I applied for an insurance job. I got the job, but I had to pass a test, and I failed it three times – and I studied hard. I took that as a sign that I wasn’t meant to do that job. I guess when you’re going into the world you don’t know what you’re going to do.

Sweet deal I really enjoy problem-solving, I like working, staying busy and growing things. It’s why we opened more stores.

Don't spoil your dinner I like to cook. At home, my thing is cooking for my family. We try every night to have dinner together. But I’m kind of more on the business end of things here at Zesty’s.

Roll up your sleeves I work in the stores and scoop custard when needed. You do what you need to do. It’s fun, but it’s busy, and we’re moving fast. Sometimes you come home with fudge on your arms; it’s part of the job.

Cherry on top My wife [Alison (Schroeder) Ziemann '03] works with me and handles a lot of the accounting and record-keeping for our two businesses, while I visit the stores and our commercial properties. Our daughters Avery, 9, and Luella, 7 come in a lot. They like to pretend to work at Zesty’s. Avery’s already talking about becoming a dishwasher here. She’s excited to work her way up.

1965 The Rev. Angelo Joseph Feldkamp, of De Pere, died March 12, 2019, at the age of 76. He was director of Camp Tivoli in Cecil, Wis., and was a faculty member at Abbot Pennings High School in De Pere and at Notre Dame Academy in Green Bay. He is survived by the Norbertine community and two siblings.

1967 The Rev. Brian Zielinski, of Middletown, Del., died March 24, 2019, at the age of 77. He taught at Bishop Neumann High School, where he served as campus minister and dean of student life. He was superior at St. Norbert Priory in Pennsylvania and served on the abbot's council at Daylesford (Pa.) Abbey. He later taught at Padua Academy in Wilmington, Del., and was a teacher and campus minister at Archmere Academy in

Claymont, Del., where he also chaired the religion department. He served as prior of Immaculate Conception Priory in Claymont, Del., and was appointed pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish and St. Thomas More Parish in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He spent his last years as superior of Immaculate Conception Priory in Middletown and liturgy director of the community. He is survived by the Norbertine community.

1968 Dr. Peter Bordini, of Green Bay, died Jan. 3, 2019, at the age of 72. He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War before practicing general dentistry at Dental Arts Associates of Green Bay. He is survived by his wife, Nan, and three sons.

1968 Barbara Ladi Terry, of Bloomington, Ind., died Jan. 13, 2019,

at the age of 72. She served in the Peace Corps, teaching in Nigeria, and worked at Cornell University and SUNY Binghamton before becoming career services director at Ferris State University. She also had her own business, Success Work, aimed at helping people realize and utilize their creative potential. She is survived by her husband, **Tim Terry '68**, and two children.

1968 Susan Uhl Wilson, of Cutler Bay, Fla., died Jan. 24, 2019, at the age of 90. She worked with Art Marshall and Marjory Stoneman Douglas on preserving the Florida Everglades and on stopping the Cross Florida Barge Canal. She also taught ecology at Miami Dade Community College and ran the Open College program. She is survived by three children.

1968 James Servais, of Green Bay, died Feb. 13, 2019, at the age of 72. He served in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps in a variety of posts, including plotting depth charts to map the ocean floor while in the Virgin Islands. He worked with the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colo., and taught high school science in Green Bay. He is survived by his partner, Deanna.

1970 Michael Kingore, of Kingwood, Texas, died Sept. 19, 2018, at the age of 70. He served in the U.S. Army as the aide-de-camp to the general and as a lieutenant. He is survived by a daughter.

1970 Hannah Lou Puczko, of Northfield, Minn., died Nov. 14, 2018, at the age of 70. She spent her career in community education and was a

proud member of the Northfield Rotary Club. She is survived by her husband, Howard, and two children.

1970 Kathryn Stites, of Manitowoc, Wis., died Dec. 1, 2018, at the age of 71. She worked as a substitute teacher in Brown, Kewaunee and Manitowoc counties of Wisconsin. She worked as a realtor for Prestige Realty in Green Bay before becoming a certified nursing assistant. She is survived by five children and a stepdaughter.

1970 John Schoenecker Jr., of Oak Creek, Wis., died Feb. 8, 2019, at the age of 70. He worked as a CPA at Csepella Klug & Co. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen, and three children.

1973 Mary Ann (Koenigs) Zins, of Atlanta, died Aug. 21, 2018, at the age of 67. She worked as a high school math teacher at The Marist School in Atlanta. She is survived by her husband, **Dan '71**, and brothers **Mel Koenigs '62** and **Dave Koenigs '74**.

1985 Matt Hennick, of Tigard, Ore., died April 23, 2019, at the age of 56. He served in the U.S. Army at Fort Knox, Ky., and the National Guard in Portland, Ore. He worked to educate young men incarcerated for violent crimes. He is survived by his wife, Barbara. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Meg Flanigan '84**, daughter of the late **Norbert Flanigan '40** (Biology).

1986 Laura (Wyrembek) Shutock, of Lombard, Ill., died Nov. 8, 2017, at the age of 54. She spent her career working for IBM. She is survived by her husband, Mark, and two stepsons.

1988 Lisa Torres, of Inverness, Ill., died Jan. 21, 2019, at the age of 52. She worked as an assistant manager at List Management. She is survived by her husband, Jim, two children and four stepchildren.

1989 Jeff Spratt, of Homer Glen, Ill., died Nov. 5, 2018, at the age of 51. He spent his career working at AmTrust Financial. He is survived by his wife, Susie, three children, and siblings **Kevin '86**, **Steve '88** and **Stacey Haggerty '88**.

1989 Warren Gerleman, of Barrington, Ill., died Dec. 26, 2018, at the age of 52. He worked as a chiropractor for many years at Gerleman Chiropractic. He was an avid woodworker and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by a son.

2000 Maureen Mommaerts, of De Pere, died Dec. 17, 2018, at the age of 40. She worked as a school social worker for both the Howard-Suamico, Wis., and West De Pere school districts. She is survived by her husband, Mark, and three children.

2007 Lauren (Hartman) Arkens, of Appleton, Wis., died April 18, 2019, at the age of 34. She owned and operated Green Bay Floral & Greenhouse. She is survived by her husband, **Tyler Arkens '07**, and a daughter. *Arkens and her battle with cystic fibrosis were featured in the February 2016 issue of @St. Norbert, which can be found at snc.edu/news/enews.*

Class Notes

1962 David Blahnik has retired after a career that included 23 years in the U.S. Army, 12 years

in the private sector and 20 years working with special needs students in the Bend, Ore., school district.

1966 John Zeihen has been inducted into the Westosha (Wis.) Central Athletic Hall of Fame. He played both basketball and baseball for the Falcons at Central High School District of Westosha and later played basketball for the Green Knights.

1969 Susan Faust has been added to the executive leadership team at PANTHERx® Specialty Pharmacy as senior vice president and head of markets. She will be responsible for leading the company's rare and orphan pharmaceutical sales and business development and contracting, and will work on growing the company's networks.

1973 John Williams has been named chairman of Church Mutual Insurance Co. He previously served as vice chairman of Church Mutual. He has spent his career in the banking industry and has served as president and CEO of the Milwaukee Public Museum.

1982 Col. Kevin Agen was recently promoted to colonel and reassigned as the command inspector general for the Wisconsin National Guard.

1984 Kate Boyle has been named provost and vice president of academic affairs at Saint Martin's University. She previously served as dean of the College of Education & Counseling.

1985 Claire (Heskin) Kowalczyk has been appointed as deputy superintendent of schools for Palatine (Ill.) Elementary School District 15.

CURB APPEAL



As **Cassie (Herrmann) Wenzel '07** and her husband buy and renovate properties in the same area of Manitowoc, Wis., the value of the properties and of the neighborhood as a whole improve.

"We hear how Marshall Street used to be really bad, but the whole street has changed since we've stepped in," says Cassie.

Her husband, Jacob Wenzel, agrees. "You take this property that's rundown that no one wants, but then you fix it up and you get this great tenant. That first night you drive past seeing it lit up and full of life, that's probably the most rewarding thing." The Wenzels oversee 46 units, ranging from single-family residences to a rundown lumber yard that they hope to turn into an office and storage facility.



Finding beauty in forgotten homes

Steel-toed boots and an old St. Norbert College sweatshirt. That's what **Cassie (Herrmann) Wenzel '07** wears to work pretty much every morning, and she wouldn't want it any other way.

"It's not a glamorous life by any means, but it's a life I really enjoy," she says.

Cassie and her husband, Jacob Wenzel, are the owners of Wenzel Properties LLC. They've been renovating properties in Manitowoc, Wis., the past 11 years.

Cassie and Jacob, who works full-time as an electrician, do all the labor themselves, never outsourcing to contractors. "We're both very used to hard work," says Cassie. "We grew up on dairy farms where our parents always did the work on their own."

The Wenzels' path to the property business began as a hobby. They bought their first property after Cassie graduated from St. Norbert when, due to the Great Recession, there were many low-priced properties for sale in the area, including on Marshall Street on the south side of the city. They soon expanded to a single-family residential area on the north side and then to their nearby hometown of Valders, Wis.

Family business



Cassie (Herrmann) Wenzel '07 and her husband, Jacob, have always tackled renovations as a family, and that includes their two boys, Blase, 6, and Parker, 4.

"It's just like when Jake and I grew up on our farms. When it was time to bale hay, you just did it," says Cassie. "So it's the same with our boys. When we have to turn over an apartment, that's what we do as a family."

Safety first, of course! If they're able, and with mom's and dad's help, the boys take down siding, strip wallpaper and work on smaller projects.

"It's been a hobby that helps pay the bills. When we're working on our own projects, the days just fly by," says Cassie. "My goal, our goal, is to not be stuck in the corporate world, and Jake and I are almost there. Sitting in an office every day, not getting to work with our hands, not controlling our own day-to-day just wasn't the life we wanted."

So she left her job in public relations at Wisconsin Public Service four years ago to focus full-time on renovating properties. Since then, Wenzel Properties has grown from 14 units to 46.

One of their proudest remodels was a more-than-yearlong flip converting a dentist's office into a six-unit apartment complex. The second floor, vacant for more than 30 years, had shag carpeting and green paneling. When they ripped up the carpet, they discovered 5,000 square feet of gorgeous maple hardwood floor, which Cassie refinished herself.

"Getting to work every day in my steel-toed boots and my old college sweatshirt shows exactly who I am," says Cassie. "I'm someone who wants to bring out the beauty in buildings that have been forgotten."



Family connections

When **John '77** and **Kathy (Johnson) '77 Sprenzel** (above) decided to renew their marriage vows, they knew exactly who they wanted to officiate the ceremony: the **Rev. Rowland De Peaux '48**.

After all, he officiated their wedding 40 years earlier ... and he baptized their three children, including **Greg Sprenzel '08** ... and he officiated Greg's wedding in 2016.

"He is a very special person to our family," Greg says of De Peaux. The Sprenzels' three children and their spouses, as well as their four grandchildren, attended the vow-renewal ceremony and 40th wedding anniversary celebration at Old St. Joe's in March.

1985 Mary (Bartz) Dano has recently joined the executive team at Northwest Community Healthcare (NCH) in Arlington Heights, Ill. Her responsibilities include oversight of the legal, compliance and risk management functions of the health system. She also manages the insurance program, serves on the board of the company's captive insurance carrier, and oversees the worker's compensation and

patient relations teams. She previously served as the vice president and legal counsel at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

1987 Tracy Van Zeeland, master photographer and owner of M. C. Kinney Photography, has received the 2019 Wisconsin Professional Photographers Association (WPPA) Artist of the Year Award. She received the 2018

WPPA Photographer of the Year and Artist of the Year-Runner Up awards the previous year. After 17 years in downtown Appleton, Wis., she moved her studio to a larger, renovated space in August 2018.

1988 Jill (Beardsley) Gonzalez became the executive director of the Women's Storybook Project of Texas in September 2018.

1989 Karen (King) Konop graduated with an M.A. in applied behavior analysis from Ball State University in July 2018 and has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in applied behavior analysis at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She works as a clinical supervisor at the Wisconsin Early Autism Project.

1989 Elise Amel has received the John Ireland Presidential Award for Outstanding Achievement as a Teacher-Scholar at the University of St. Thomas. She was also named a fellow of the American Psychological Association for unique, outstanding and national contributions to the field.

1990 Marybeth Gasman has been awarded the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Endowed Chair in Education. She is currently the Judy & Howard Berkowitz professor of education in the graduate school of education at the University of Pennsylvania, where her areas of expertise include history of American higher education, minority-serving institutions, racism and diversity, fundraising and philanthropy, and higher-education leadership. She is the founding director of the Penn Center for Minority

Serving Institutions, is the author or editor of 23 books, and has written more than 200 peer-reviewed articles. She also serves on the board of trustees of the college and of Paul Quin College.

1990 Lori (Sander) Polantz has been appointed corporate communications manager of Baxter & Woodman Inc. in Crystal Lake, Wis.

1993 A new scholarship honors **Eric Collins**, who died in April 2014. The Eric G. Collins Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to students from his high school alma mater, Kingsford (Mich.) High School.

1996 Vince Vitrano has been elected chairman of the board of directors for Special Olympics Wisconsin. He has served on the board for six years.

1997 Richard Tuggle has been ordained a deacon in the Diocese of Birmingham, Ala. As a lieutenant colonel, he has also assumed command of the 35th Expeditionary Signal Battalion in Puerto Rico.

1997 A guest post by **Maureen Callahan** following an alumni visit to the Art Institute of Chicago with the **Rev. Jim Neilson '88** appears on the magazine blog. Callahan writes, "I left the museum that afternoon reminded that even if one has observed something several times, sometimes taking a closer look with a connoisseur brings a whole new perspective. The Japanese proverb states: 'Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher.' How true it is!" Read more at home.snc.edu/susan.allen.

1998 Matthew Gonnering, CEO of Widen Enterprises, was named the Medium Company Executive of the Year and Greater Madison In Business Executive of the Year. In Business magazine featured Gonnering and his investment in professional development and culture in its online publication. *Gonnering was featured in the May 2018 issue of @St. Norbert, available at snc.edu/news/enews.*

1998 John Pavich has been named associate judge in Will County, Ill. "I hope and believe that my past legal experience has prepared me well to serve on the bench," Pavich said during his swearing-in ceremony in February, according to a Patch Media article. "Although practicing in a small firm, I've been fortunate to work on some unusual and exciting cases that have often required me to deviate from my comfort zone. And I expect that will happen regularly on the bench."

1998 Stephanie Winquist has accepted a position at the University of Dayton School of Law as program manager of graduate law studies. She previously worked for the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio.

1999 Kerry (Hartman) Bloemers has joined Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS) as the development program manager. She will manage fundraising efforts and implement a plan to drive the contributed-income program.

2000 Leah (Kautzer) Ackley has accepted a position at Holy Spirit Parish in Kimberly, Wis., coordinating pastoral

care and family-life ministry programming and events for the parish.

2002 Chris Hess was featured in the Madison 365 publication in the article "Black Power 2018: Wisconsin's 42 Most Influential Black Leaders, Part 4." He is president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin. He also serves on the board of directors of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce. *Hess was featured in our Summer 2018 issue. snc.edu/magazine/archive.html.*

2002 Dr. Constantine Saites has been added to the Lutheran Health Systems team as a trauma surgeon. He previously worked at Medical City Arlington in Texas as the director of the surgical intensive care unit.

2005 Jill Yashinsky-Wortman has been named the director of the Center for Cura Personalis at Gonzaga University. She oversees the development of the center, which focuses on wellness and prevention education, case management, and recovery support services for students.

2005 Betsy (Fryda) Radue has been promoted to senior manager of communications for Kohler Co. in Kohler, Wis. She is responsible for cross-category communications for kitchen and bath, including digital, trade and national media initiatives.

2007 Rebecca Krus Nash has joined the board of directors of Teach for America – Twin Cities. The Minneapolis-based chapter is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

2007 Colin Waters has received his graduate degree in education, broad field social studies, from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

2008 Dan Dargenio has been named the 2019 Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies High School Teacher of the Year. He teaches world studies and Advanced-Placement European history at Marshfield (Wis.) High School. His students nominated him for the award.

2008 Cody Craig has been promoted to manager of wind and solar assets for WEC Energy Group (parent company of Wisconsin Public Service and We Energies), where he oversees more than 1,500 megawatts of renewable energy.

2009 Suzan (Odabasi) Brinker has accepted a position at Northeastern University as director of marketing.

2010 Ashley Turkowski has been appointed as legal counsel at Franciscan Health Central Indiana. She is responsible for legal and regulatory oversight of the hospitals, providing counsel to leadership and ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations. She previously served as a law clerk in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and as a clerk for Adventist Health System in Illinois.

2011 Dr. Blake Bashor served as chief resident of his emergency medicine class at St. Luke's University Health Network for 2018-19. He was selected for the role by faculty and peers. Bashor has graduated from residency and has accepted a position with Genesis Health System in Davenport, Iowa.

2011 Mike Bernardy has accepted a position at J.P. Morgan as vice president for investments, catering to high net-worth and ultra-high net-worth families and business owners.

2011 Spencer Ellena has been named VITA North America's new director of channel management. He is responsible for strategic partnerships with VITA's dealer network. In his previous role as a sales director, he received Sales Rep of the Year, Region of the Year and Achiever of the Year recognition.

2013 (BBA) 2018 (MBA) Guy Allen has left Schneider Logistics to take up a position as buyer at Green Bay Packaging Coated Products Operations.

2013 Jonathan Mallek has welcomed Doug, a playful orange cat, into his home.

2013 Molly Schroeder shared her journey and experience as a young victim of a heart attack with Glamour Magazine. She suffered a heart attack at 21 years old as a student-athlete at St. Norbert. Her story was also featured in other outlets, including Healthline, the Daily Mail, Reader's Digest and Fox News.

In 2012, as a Green Knights soccer player, Schroeder started showing symptoms of what she thought was a panic attack or the flu. But when symptoms became more severe, she went to an urgent care clinic and was told she was, in fact, having a heart attack.

"My whole life had changed, and at 21 I learned how fragile life is," she told Healthline. Schroeder is now part of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women's new class of Real Women. She's sharing her story

to educate and inspire other women. "I'm so empowered by this because I am one of the statistics now, and I never thought I'd be," she says in the article from Healthline.

2014 Shaina (Beckers) Allen has left WFRV-TV to take up a position as marketing coordinator at Wisconsin Humane Society Door County Campus.

2014 Lindsey DePasse received her graduate degree in international affairs from American University in 2017.

2018 Robbie Dombrowski will be head coach of the 2019 edition of the Western Canadian Baseball League's Yorkton Cardinals. He is the current hitting and catching coach of the Belhaven University Blazers in Jackson, Miss.

More than a dozen members of 1980s Sigma Tau Gamma and Theta Phi reunited in March. **Dorothy Unger '85, Karen Krause Robertson '85, Jenny (Stack) Bau '85, Bill Van Ess '85, Scott Sevenich '86, Jeff Bau '86, Dave Reynolds '86, Tim Lewaren '86, John Steckart '86, Mike Adler '87, David Mucha '88, Greg Hermesen '88, Debbie Prette '88 and Joann (Bau) Adler '89** joined their advisor, the **Rev. Rowland De Peaux '48**, at the Sister Bay, Wis., reunion. The group plans to hold its next reunion in March 2020.

Andy '06 and Amy (Van Straten) '08 Cote have started a new fire and security business called NV Technologies Fire and Security. They provide residential and commercial security solutions as well as fire protection inspection services for health care,

education and other commercial buildings.

St. Norbert alumni often return to campus to share their experiences after college and offer advice to current students. **Levi Budz '15** spoke in early October about his business, Budz Butter, and the value of a St. Norbert education, and to demonstrate how to take calculated risks that could become fulfilling, with an entrepreneurship class led by **Joy Pahl** (Business Administration). **Fiona Holahan '18** shared her postgraduation service experience with the Amate House program and with St. Benedict the African in Chicago at a February lunch and information session hosted by the Sturzl Center for Community Service & Learning and the TRIPS Program.

Heather Milbach '09, Jose Vasquez '12 and Megan Pirelli '13 became dual-degree holders this spring after graduating from St. Norbert's Master in Business Administration program.

New hires at St. Norbert College include **Nicole Micolicheck '11**, academic advisor of pre-health programs, and **Hannah Kruse '18**, digital marketing specialist.

CORRECTION **Melissa Jeruzal '13 and Nicholas Beihoff '14** wed Aug. 4, 2018. Our sincere apologies for including an incorrect spelling of Jeruzal's name in our Spring 2019 issue.

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

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



Now this is a weekend . . .

Whether you've been away from campus for decades or you visit often, there's one SNC event you don't want to miss – our annual Alumni Weekend, July 19-21, 2019.

It's back, and it's going to be big – REALLY big. From Friday to Sunday, we're welcoming back all of you – every alumnus, every alumna, every class – for a fun-packed celebration of your alma mater. From parties to boat tours, classes to Masses, there's always going to be something going on. And the kids can come, too!

Your Alumni Weekend 2019 schedule includes:

- FRIDAY, JULY 19
 - Reconnecting Happy Hour
 - Welcome Back Reception
- SATURDAY, JULY 20
 - Greek and Independent Retreat (an overnight experience for leaders of our 14 sorority, fraternity and independent groups, with alumni leadership)
 - SNC Alumni College
 - Lambeau Field and Packers Hall of Fame Tour
 - St. Norbert Abbey Tour
 - Badger State Brewing Co. Tour
 - Party on the River (It's the biggest alumni party of the year!)
- SUNDAY, JULY 21
 - Mass at Old. St. Joe's

And there's more: boat rides on the river, SNC Memories display, the college's new The Saint John's Bible to encounter, class photos, lawn games, children's tent with supervised activities including a balloon artist, face-painting and tie-dye . . . Register now at snc.edu/alumni/alumniweekend!

A step up from the usual

There's a wonderful sweeping staircase in Bemis, the kind that just begs for a grand entry. It must be the dickens to vacuum – and somebody must be taking care of that routinely, because there's never so much as a speck of lint to be seen. A few days before Commencement, I did come across a colleague damp-dusting the ornate curlicues of the banister – each and every one, from top to bottom. It didn't seem likely that any Commencement guest would find their way over to the opposite end of campus to run the white-glove test – but we'd be ready for them anyway.

The next day, there was someone painting the iron handrails to the Main Hall steps. He cheerfully paused to give me advice on prepping metal for painting. (There's an old pump-handle in our own backyard that's beginning to rust.)

Watching the campus get ready to present itself at its finest reminds me of cleaning the oven before guests come – you know, just in case somebody might want to bake something. It's really not about the oven. Or the banisters, or the fresh layer of mulch. In fact, our campus home is meticulously cared for all year round. It's about due celebration and due welcome.

That's how it is at St. Norbert – whatever it is, somebody's taking care of that.

Susan Allen

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TALK TO US!

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

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Mohr for your money

Everybody gets their 15 minutes, and for **Mark Mohr '79** fame looks set to last just a little bit longer. When his team at First Bank Financial Centre created a bobblehead of the boss, his marketing manager – another Green Knight, **Jeff McCarthy '97** – saw opportunity come bob-bob-bobbing right along. McCarthy created a social media series around the bobblehead so customers could guess where the bank's CEO was that week. The Facebook contest grew so much in popularity that the national Bobblehead Hall of Fame took notice – and inducted the Mohr bobblehead.

It's like you're already family

St. Norbert delivered on its promise of radical hospitality early for students admitted to the Class of 2023. Each of the high-school seniors took delivery of a care package this month designed to add a Green Knight touch to their graduation celebrations. The school-pride boxes contained SNC-themed paper plates, napkins, balloons and a pennant as well as thoughtful extras like thank-you cards for graduation gifts and a gift certificate to the college bookstore.



That's gotta be an A+ in dog years

With a woof and a bound and the good graces of the Packerland Kennel Club, our pooch pals return to meet our students for snuggles, smooches and sheer slobbery joyfulness. Career & Professional Development hosts the popular drop-in doggy de-stresser to counter any incipient exam nerves as finals loom at the end of each semester.

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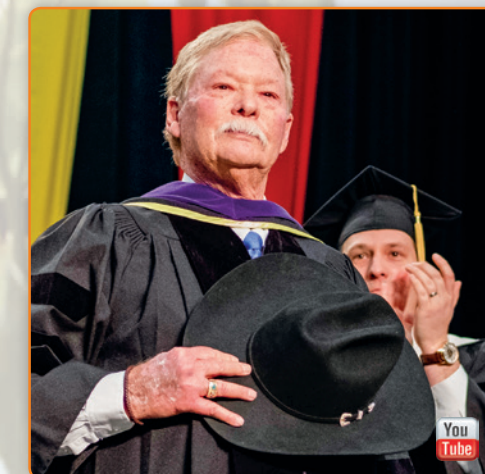


Is the number of tenured and tenure-track faculty positions filled 2010-19 under Dean Jeff Frick, who moves on to Washington & Jefferson College this summer. Under his leadership, the college has seen expansion and diversification of its faculty and significant growth in academic affairs. However, in his own words: "The essence of who we are remains the same."

Recommended viewing: Wish you were here

Frank Shankwitz of the Make-a-Wish Foundation was this year's Commencement speaker. The creator and founding CEO of the nonprofit that grants a wish every 34 minutes to a child with a critical illness received an honorary juris doctor degree from the college. (Incidentally, Shankwitz' autobiography, "Wish Man," was published last year by TitleTown Publishing where **Travis Vanden Heuvel '09** is president and chief executive officer. This year, TitleTown brings out Shankwitz's first children's book, "Wishes Don't Wash Dishes.")

As an additional treat, our video coverage includes student speaker **Jasmine Babineaux '19**. You won't want to miss the English writing and business management major's charge to share the love and light that the St. Norbert experience has etched in her and her classmates' hearts. Watch at youtube.com/stnorbertcollege.



Calendar

July

- 9** Knights on the Fox outdoor concert series begins
- 11-21** Summer Stage presents "Singin' in the Rain"
- 19-21** Alumni Weekend

August

- 6** Knights on the Fox Alumni Night Presents **Jim Counter '83**
- 8-11** Next Stage presents "Newsies"
- 25** Mass of the Holy Spirit and Convocation

September

- 19** Killeen Chair
- 21** SNC Day
- 21-22** Family Weekend

October

- 5** Hall of Fame Day: SNC Football vs. Grinnell College
- 8** The Lost Women of Prémontré: Finding and Following the Footsteps of Medieval Women
- 18** Autumn Choral Concert
- 19-20** Homecoming Weekend

ALUMNI WEEKEND

JULY 19-21

This year's Alumni Weekend features an overnight Social Leadership Retreat for leaders of our 14 sorority, fraternity and independent groups as well as tours of Lambeau Field and Badger State Brewing Co., and more.

For details of these events and more, visit snc.edu/calendar.



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St. Norbert College Magazine

Change Service Requested

Parting Shot / Delta Phi Epsilon's Color the Campus Run for Cystic Fibrosis

"Was it the case that colours dimmed as the eye grew elderly? Or was it rather that in youth your excitement about the world transferred itself onto everything you saw and made it brighter?" – *Julian Barnes*

