



St. Thomas More High School



Where Technology Meets Tradition



August 2015

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Upcoming Events

August 8

[Norb Wishowski Alumni Run \(Greene Park, St. Francis\)](#)

August 8

[Thomas More Class of 2005 10 Year Reunion @ 7:00 p.m. \(Club Paragon in Greenfield\)](#)

August 15

[STM Rummage Sale, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.](#)

Donor Spotlight

Local foundation praises STM, encourages further engagement by alumni

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one Pearl of Great Price, went and sold all that he had and bought it." - Matthew 13:45-46

Jay and Carolyn Scott did not attend Thomas More or any of its predecessor schools. The couple's four daughters are not Thomas More alumnae. Until recently the Scotts had never visited STM and knew virtually nothing about the school's operations. Without a familial connection, the Scotts were unlikely candidates to become ambassadors of STM's mission. However, struck by the school's commitment to academic excellence for its diverse student body, the Scotts have become engaged members of the STM community, proclaiming the school as a hidden jewel on Milwaukee's south side with enormous potential.

At the urging of Don Bosco alumnus Joe Delgadillo, the Scotts visited STM in 2014. "We had also ironically just reconnected with our college friend and Thomas More alumnus Tom Wargolet, so we decided to go check out the school," Carolyn explained. Carolyn is the Executive Director of the RA Stevens Foundation and Jay assists with the administration of the foundation.

Upon entering STM for the first time, Jay and Carolyn were immediately impressed by the school's educational mission, engaged students, and devoted leadership. "We had this divine synergy where all of a sudden there's all these little components coming together. **And then when we toured the school, it was like this hidden jewel on the south side,**" Carolyn said. "It's like I was digging

August 16
[STM Alumni Soccer Game, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.](#)

September 12
[STM Rummage Sale, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.](#)

October 17
[Casino Night @ 6:30 p.m.](#)

November 21
[24th Annual Craft Fair @ 9:00 a.m.](#)

May Murphy Thibaudeau Student Poems

With summer upon us, STM would like to share a few student works from our 2015 May Murphy Thibaudeau Writing Awards. This month, we look at a poem written by Lydia Raflik, who won first prize for the Class of 2016.

"To Rise Above the Water" By Lydia Raflik (STM '16)

Even, Bonny And Blithe
(odd, wretched and woeful)
Confidence Worn On His Sleeve
(self-doubt wore down his heart)

Surrounded By Friends Who Care
(others do none but disregard)
One Open 'Together Community'
(one closed 'private exclusion')

Beautiful, Strong, Soaring, Winning!
(ugly, weak, cloaking, losing. . .)
Eagles Above The Ground Flying
(mouse below the ground covering)

Loving, Laughter, Light, Living!
(despairing, distress, dark, dying. . .)
Focusing In The Now Is The Key
(dwelling in the past brings anxieties)

Savoring Every Moment Being
(drowning in the depths of his past)
Blind In His Bliss
(locked away from happiness)

Even His Ignorant Heart
(left odd on the street)
Cannot See Through odd Eyes
(everyday deals with Even Lies)

Shut The Door On odd
Strangers
(locked away from Even Life)
The Party Is Only For Numbers Alike
(feeling worthless is all he feels)

Even Climbs An Easy Mountain
(odd fights to keep his head above the water)

in the field and I found the Pearl of Great Price that I never knew existed."

STM's focus on academics and college preparation greatly appealed to Jay and Carolyn. The Scotts were instantly drawn to STM's Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program, a research-driven curriculum of college preparatory engineering, biomedical sciences, and computer science that allows students to "learn by doing" rather than by simply reading textbooks, listening to lectures, or practicing unrealistic case studies. The *Milwaukee Business Journal* recently honored STM with the Eureka Award in education for being among the first schools in Wisconsin to introduce the full offerings of PLTW and for our innovative project-based learning, such as the student-led creation of STM's official mobile application for Android.

STM's emphasis on expanding career fields, such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), is helping prepare our students for success at the college level. "I believe that a student who does well at St. Thomas More could go to college and succeed," Jay said.

While some schools emphasize order and values at the expense of educational time, academic progress is paramount at STM. According to ACT college readiness scores, STM students are more prepared for the rigors of secondary education than their Milwaukee County peers. While the average Milwaukee County student averages only a 19 composite score on the ACT, the STM Class of 2015 earn an average score of 23. STM students are nearly twice as likely as their Milwaukee peers to be proficient in each subject of the ACT: English, math, reading, and science. Among the top 10 percent of students, STM's Class of 2015 averaged a score of 30, qualifying them for the nation's top college and universities.

Touring STM, the Scotts also highlighted our students' demeanor, maturity, and engagement. "Students were not only creative and engaged but would also look you straight in the eye," Carolyn said. "It's a palatable feeling that when you walk through [the school]; there's a deep level of engagement, and you can feel it."

The Scotts attributed this deep level of student engagement to STM's effective, charismatic leadership. A "great ambassador for the school," STM Principal Mark Joerres impressed the Scotts in his interactions with students. "There was something about Mark," Carolyn explained. "Right away I felt, 'this is a caring, loving individual who is passionate about this school.' I instantly felt his presence and the way that he relates to all the students."

Through our years of experience nurturing young people, STM has embraced an empathetic approach to spiritual development through engaging activities, such as our local retreats and our annual pilgrimage to Italy. Carolyn also highlighted the STM campus ministry room, which

Breaks Only To Catch His Breath
(to stop means to end)

Once He Reaches The Top
(sometimes oddities do not make it)
Even Life Has Been Complete
(they give up and drown)

But this odd pushed through
Real strength exists in perseverance

Do not let the cloudy water blind you
From finding your happiness

The air above the water
Anyone can reach

Things do get better
But the only one who can prove that is
you

To rise above the water
Is to find your well-being



Lydia Raflik (STM '16)

We Need Your Pictures!

If you have photos of STM students participating in anything from playing sports to studying for an exam, send them our way! The Admissions Department is working on a new recruitment video, and we would love to feature current and recently graduated students.

Please send any pictures that you would like to share to krussell@tmore.org.

Thank you!

Stay Connected with STM!

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Class Notes

offers students a safe place to unwind with their peers and our director of faith formation while playing table tennis, foosball, or simply discussing their lives with caring members of the STM community. Rather than preaching abstract concepts, STM's faith formation program focuses on the issues that directly affect our students and their families, emphasizing relatability while providing students with the opportunity to grow into their own spirituality.

With the school's concentration on academic excellence, college preparation, student engagement, and spiritual formation, STM instantly captivated Jay and Carolyn Scott. Despite having no familial connection to the school, the Scotts felt supporting STM was a great investment for the RA Stevens Foundation, one that would allow students of all races and income levels to reap the benefits of a rigorous and compassionate Catholic education that prepares young people for success in the next stage of their lives.

Persuaded by the power of the school's mission, the Scotts urge STM alumni to become involved in their school's community. **"We really encourage any alumni - whether they went to Don Bosco, Pio Nono, St. Francis Minor Seminary, or Thomas More - to reengage with STM," they concluded. "Take a look at your alma mater and be proud, because STM is an excellent school producing great results."**



Carolyn & Jay Scott, who operate the RA Stevens Foundation, recently visited STM at the request of alumni. Since their visit, the Scotts have become important ambassadors for STM's mission.

Alumni Spotlight

STM alumna recognized for community leadership

Stephanie Bishop (STM '11) recently graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in biology and was accepted into UW-Madison's School of Pharmacy. In her four years in Madison, Stephanie spent her time volunteering and working toward the university's Leadership Certificate, which is designed to recognize outstanding student leaders who excel in their leadership roles both inside and outside of the classroom.

Merissa (nee Bartell) Lauzon (TM '04) graduated with a Master's degree from Concordia University. She was also inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society Of Nursing (STTI). Merissa is currently a Registered Nurse at St. Luke's Medical Center.

Cassandra (Hirsch) Wagner (STM '08) and her husband Travis had a baby boy, Oliver Scott, on July 10, 2015.

If you have an alumni story or update that you would like to share, please contact Kevin Russell at krussell@tmore.org.

In Loving Memory

Walter Antoniewicz, grandfather of Travis (TM '01) and Melinda (TM '02), June 25, 2015, at the age of 89

Anthony "Butch" A. Biskup, father of Cathy Peltier (SMA '76), David (TM '77), Jeff (TM '79), and Julie Reikowski (SMA '81), father-in-law of Andy Reikowski (TM '81), grandfather of Josh Reikowski (STM '16), July 19, 2015, at the age of 79

William "Bill" F. Calteux, father of Jackie (SMA '74), Jean (SMA '75), Ken (TM '76), Robert (TM '80), John (TM '80), Fran (TM '84), and Bill (TM '86), July 11, 2015, at the age of 84

Michael L. Cianciolo, father of Michael J. (TM '74), John, and Chris, July 4, 2015, at the age of 84

Rev. Fr. Joseph "Joe" B. Frederick (SF '47), brother of John (SF '45), July 5, 2015, at the age of 86

Leonard R. Gigowski (SF '43), winner of the 2010 STM Chancellor Award, July 21, 2015, at the age of 90

Victoria Ambroziac Hoysan, mother-in-law of Brian Binash (TM '73), July 22, 2015, at the age of 88

Anna Najera Kempka, mother of Bruce Purdy (TM '79), grandmother of Alan Staniszewski (STM '17), July 9, 2015, at the age of 78

US Army Colonel Robert "Doc" F. Lipo, M.D., father-in-law of Paul Zovic (TM '79), July 13, 2015, at the age of 83

Michael W. Lutz (TM '88), brother Robert (TM '76), Anne Bullock (SMA '77), William (TM '81), John (TM '83), Jacqueline Nelson (SMA '83), and Mary Smolen (SMA '90), uncle of Jamie (STM '15) and Elizabeth (STM '19) Smolen, July 26, 2015, at the age of 44

Jolanta Paprocki, mother of Daniel (TM '73), July 13, 2015, at the age of 88

Steven M. Peltier, husband of Cathy Peltier (SMA '76), brother-in-law of David Biskup (TM '77), Jeff Biskup (TM '79), and Andrew

To earn the University of Wisconsin's Leadership Certificate, students must complete at least 100 hours in a leadership role outside the classroom. Students earn these hours through civic engagement and work experiences. To complete these hours, Stephanie participated in the Badger Volunteer program where she spent time at a local elementary school helping out in after-school care. She was also actively involved in Colleges Against Cancer and Relay For Life. On campus, she served as a house fellow in the university housing for two years.

Adding volunteer responsibilities to her rigorous school schedule wasn't easy, but **"if it's something important to you, it's worth making time for," Stephanie explained. "Being a year-round athlete and involved in so many clubs at STM definitely helped me learn how to manage my time and stay organized."** At STM, Stephanie was involved in cross country, basketball, soccer, student ambassadors, Faith Can Cure Cancer, art club, student council, Big Buddies, National Honor Society, Green Club, and the homecoming committee.

During the Center for Leadership and Involvement Banquet last December, Dean of Students Lori Berquam recognized Stephanie with the university's prestigious Leadership Certificate and presented her with red and gold commencement honor cords to signify her leadership role in the community. She was one of only 18 individuals to receive the certificate from the entire 2015 graduating class.

After devoting time to service at STM, Stephanie felt a calling to pursue the University of Wisconsin's Leadership Certificate. "I thoroughly enjoyed every service experience during high school, especially Senior Service Week," Stephanie said. During Senior Service Week, STM students spend an entire week volunteering at a local nonprofit. In 2015, STM seniors completed over 3,600 hours of community service during this week alone. Students of all grade levels must complete service hours during the school year, and the 2014-2015 student body dedicated over 15,000 hours to helping worthy causes in the Milwaukee community!

Stephanie has returned to Milwaukee every summer since graduating from STM. She was able to put her leadership skills to work as a camp counsellor for the South Shore YMCA, and she also has been working with Aurora Health Care in the pharmacy division. This fall, Stephanie will start pharmacy school at UW-Madison. "As a future pharmacist, leadership will play a vital role in my success," she concluded. **"STM challenged me in a way that prepared me for college and set me up to be a leader in my professional life."**

STM applauds Stephanie on her commitment to her community and wishes her continued success as she enters the next stage of her life! We hope that current and future STM students follow Stephanie's lead, continuing to dedicate their time for the betterment of the community.

(TM '81) & Julie (SMA '81) Reikowski, uncle of Joshua Reikowski (STM '16), July 16, 2015, at the age of 54

Colleen Anne Suminski, mother of Michael (TM '76), Joseph (TM '77), Daniel (TM '78), and Timothy (TM '83), July 15, 2015, at the age of 89

Ervin E. Szpek, Sr., father of Ervin Jr. (TM '74), June 24, 2015, at the age of 89

Casey Szulc (DB '52), May 12, 2015, at the age of 83

Patti A. Tobin, sister of Michael (TM '79) and Robert (TM '84), May 31, 2015, at the age of 62

Donor Recognition

St. Thomas More would like to thank the following companies, organizations, and foundations for their generous support:

\$100,000+

The Cottrell Foundation
Majerus Family Foundation

\$25,000-\$99,999

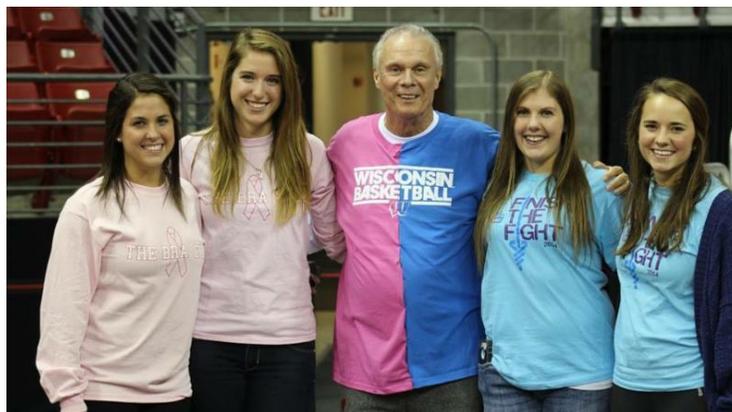
Erica P. John Fund
M&I Foundation
R.A. Stevens Family Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

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The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
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 - Milwaukee Branch
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Catholic Financial Life
Doe Doe's Coffee Cup
Dorothy Inbusch Foundation
Economic Club of Sheboygan
Faith in Our Future Trust
GE Foundation
GMAR Youth Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation:
 Mary Ann & Tom Dyer Fund
Greater Milwaukee Foundation:
 Virginia & Joseph Mallof Family Fund
Hydrite Chemical Co.
Kohl's Cares for Kids
Reliable Plating Works
Roman Electric Company



Stephanie Bishop and fellow volunteers pose with University of Wisconsin men's basketball coach Bo Ryan

Athletics Announcement

STM to dedicate new gym court to Rick Majerus

St. Thomas More High School is thrilled to announce that the Majerus Family Foundation has donated \$310,000 to its athletics program. Over the past several years, St. Thomas More High School has accelerated its effort to provide its student-athletes with top-notch facilities that help them reach their full potential.

As a result of the Majerus Family Foundation gift, St. Thomas More is proud to initiate the next phase of this transformation - modernizing the gymnasium. St. Thomas More will replace its nearly 50-year old gym floor with the new "Rick Majerus Court," honoring the legendary, Wisconsin-born basketball coach. The renovated St. Thomas More gymnasium will also include state-of-the-art scoreboards and air conditioning. Founded by basketball Coach Rick Majerus, the Majerus Family Foundation is an organization established to support student athletics, education, medical research and social justice - four areas dear to Coach Majerus and his family.

"We have an incredibly vibrant athletic program with over 70 percent of our students participating in athletics. We are extremely grateful for, and humbled by, the Majerus Family Foundation's generosity that allows us to enhance our facilities for our students and community," St. Thomas More Athletic Director John Hoch said. "Just as Coach Majerus dedicated his life to molding young people into mature adults, St. Thomas More believes that athletics, in conjunction with rigorous academics and spiritual development, can help our students develop leadership skills that will dramatically increase their chances of success in the next stage of their lives. The new space allows us to provide these future Milwaukee leaders the opportunity to develop and do great things as adults."

Jodi Majerus, Rick Majerus' sister and president of the Majerus Family Foundation, said "Catholic education was such an important part of my family's life growing up and the opportunity to contribute to both education and athletics at a great school like St. Thomas More was an easy decision." Impressed by the large amount of

Schmitz Vending Company
Target - Take Charge of Education
Three Holy Women Congregation
Vilter Foundation, Inc.
Wells Fargo Foundation

\$100-\$999

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The Catholic Community Foundation:
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Eva's Bridal Center
First Weber Group Realtors
Franklin Veterinary Clinic
Illinois Tool Works Foundation
Jaeger Family Charitable Fund
K-Consult LLC
Kohl Charities
Ladky Associates Foundation
Laureate Group
Lincoln House of Music
MGIC
Milwaukee Archdiocesan Principals'
 Association
Nelnet Business Solutions
New Berlin Dental Group
Office Copying Equipment Ltd
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Rexnord Foundation
Rockwell Automation
S.C. Johnson Fund
South Side Business Club of
 Milwaukee
Taher Inc.
UBS Financial Services
United Way of Greater Milwaukee
VNE Corporation
Walker Lodge #123
Winter, Kloman, Moter & Repp, S.C.
Wisconsin Firewood & Melvin Melch
Wisconsin Green Building Alliance
Wixon, Inc.
Wolf's Cleaners
Wrought Washer Manufacturing Co.

students involved in athletics, she added: "we wanted to contribute in a big way to St. Thomas More's efforts and do something that was immediately impactful and meaningful. We couldn't be more excited about helping the St. Thomas More student-athletes."

Over the course of his nearly 30-year career in basketball, Rick Majerus served as head coach at Marquette University, Ball State University, the University of Utah, and Saint Louis University, leading 12 teams to the NCAA Tournament and finishing second while at Utah in 1998. Majerus was also an assistant coach to Don Nelson during the Milwaukee Bucks' 1986-87 season. In 1994, Majerus served on Nelson's coaching staff for USA Basketball, earning the gold medal at the FIBA World Championships.

St. Thomas More's gymnasium modernization project, including the dedication of "Rick Majerus Court," follows the recent improvements to its fitness center where students can train with two certified strength and conditioning coaches, gymnasium entrance, baseball field, and outdoor concession stand. In upcoming years, the St. Thomas More Athletic Department hopes to renovate the locker rooms, resurface the damaged tennis courts, and revitalize its soccer field with new turf and bleachers.

"We really hope our gift encourages others to step up and support St. Thomas More at whatever level possible," Ms. Majerus concluded. "The school is doing great things and we hope others are as excited as we are to help them succeed."

The successor school of Don Bosco High School, Pio Nono High School, St. Francis Minor Seminary, St. Mary's Academy, and Thomas More High School, St. Thomas More educates over 500 students in grades nine through 12 on Milwaukee's southeast side. Emphasizing academic excellence and innovation, St. Thomas More strives to nurture the whole student: spiritually, ethically, intellectually, emotionally, and physically, preparing them to become living signs of Christ's love in the world.

For more information, please contact John Hoch at 414-481-8370, ext. 120 or at jhoch@tmore.org.



Board members of the Majerus Family Foundation visited STM on July 24. Because of the foundation's donation, STM will replace our nearly 50-year old gym floor with the new "Rick Majerus Court."

Invest in STM!

Join the RA Stevens Foundation and the Majerus Family Foundation in your support for St. Thomas More's mission! Contributions from donors like you enable STM students, such as Stephanie Bishop (STM '11), to achieve their goals in high school, college, and beyond. Your donation also allows STM to continue providing one-of-a-kind educational and athletic activities, such as our May Murphy Thibaudeau Awards and our award-winning Project Lead the Way program. STM knows that students learn in many different ways, and your contribution lets us truly engage and challenge our students, helping them reach their full potential.

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to help STM continue providing a holistic, innovative education for our students. Your support allows STM to ensure that current and future Cavaliers have the resources they need to succeed spiritually, academically, and professionally. Your donation also helps us provide financial assistance to our students, helping them take the next step to a successful career.

Click the "Donate" button below to make a safe and secure online contribution!



Leave a lasting legacy for future generations of students by considering STM in your estate planning. For more information, please contact Kevin Russell at krussell@tmore.org.

If you have any questions about upcoming events or ways that you can support the STM community, please contact Kevin Russell, Grants Manager & Database Coordinator, at 414-481-8370, ext. 131, or at krussell@tmore.org.

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