



# St. Thomas More SPIRIT

St. Francis Minor Seminary

Pio Nono

Don Bosco

Thomas More



Athletic Director John Hoch (TM '87)  
presenting Jodi Majerus with the  
Chancellor Award for her late brother,  
Coach Rick Majerus.

*Read more on page 2*

## Spring 2017

# A message from our President

**Throughout our history, change has been at the core of St. Thomas More's mission.** For nearly 150 years, at St. Francis Minor Seminary, Pio Nono, Don Bosco, and Thomas More, our school community has always embraced innovation to provide our students with a rigorous and transformative education that emphasizes lifelong scholarship, Christian discipleship, and conscientious citizenship.

This school year, STM has continued this tradition, launching new initiatives and partnerships across the school. I'm proud to share a few of these accomplishments with you:

- **Center for Servant Leadership & Civic Engagement:** STM became the first high school in Milwaukee to create a one-of-a-kind servant leadership program that integrates with the everyday curriculum to teach students shared, societal values such as humility, reflection, and community. Read more about this program on pages 9-10.
- **College and Career Center:** This school year, STM established the College and Career Center, providing personalized guidance for students as they research universities, submit college applications, pursue financial aid, prepare for college entrance exams, and consider post-college options. With this individual attention, students can find the college and career path that best matches their goals and interests.
- **Expansion of Academic Support Services:** STM also expanded our MORE Enrichment after school program, giving students additional, structured time with their teachers to improve the educational foundation before learning more advanced topics. Because of the support of our donors, MORE Enrichment expanded from one to three subjects this school year and will offer guidance in five subjects for the 2017-18 school year.
- **MIAD Future Designers:** Connecting fine arts and STEM, STM is one of three local high schools to partner with the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) to offer the innovative Future Designers program. Funded by the Helen Bader Foundation, Future Designers allows our students to work with mentors from MIAD on hands-on projects that help them envision and learn more about careers in Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Architectural Design, and Illustration.

Through the dedication of our faculty and staff, the enthusiasm of our alumni, and the generosity of our donors, STM remains focused on our core principles while expanding on our long tradition of academic innovation and transformative education. These innovations will impact every current and future student, keeping our school vibrant and strong for many generations to come.



On behalf of the entire STM community, I want to express my sincere gratitude for all you do to make STM the exceptional place that it is today. I wish you and your family a safe and joy-filled summer.

With God's peace and love,



Mary McIntosh  
President

## David Seitz (TM '75), STM Board of Directors

*David Seitz is one of STM's newest members of the board of directors. Welcome!*

**“Attending Thomas More was a blessing from God that provided me with the foundation for my professional and personal life. Teachers, coaches, administrators, and religious staff here at Thomas More helped to prepare me for success. I owe it to them to serve this next generation in some way. In doing so I gain an equal if not greater reward in the satisfaction of serving.”**



**David Seitz (TM '75)**

*Market Director, Industrial Source Permitting  
TRC Environmental Corp*

# 34th Annual STM Dinner Auction



*Father Tom Wittliff (SF '55)*

MORE Madness was a slam dunk, raising over \$140,000 to benefit STM students! At the event, STM presented the Chancellor Award, the school's highest honor, to the late Rick Majerus, who led Marquette, Ball State, Utah, and Saint Louis Universities during his nearly 30-year coaching career. Because of Coach Majerus and his family's generosity, STM replaced our 50-year old gym floor with the new Rick Majerus Court in 2016, shortly after last year's Dinner Auction.

Fr. Tom Wittliff (SF '55) provided a spirited opening prayer while STM Athletic Director John Hoch (TM '87), ESPN Wisconsin radio host Steve "The Homer" True, and Rick's sister, Jodi, shared stories about Coach Majerus and his larger-than-life personality.

Perhaps the most inspirational speaker was STM senior Marisa Garcia, who explained how her four years at STM helped her grow academically, personally, and spiritually. Exemplifying the best of STM, Garcia received the QuestBridge scholarship, which will cover all expenses of her undergraduate education at Northwestern University. Garcia, whose father (Mateo, TM '97) and siblings (Isabella and Mateo, STM '20) have also attended STM, was one of only 767 students – out of nearly 15,000 total applicants nationwide – to win this prestigious scholarship.

*A huge thank you goes to our Dinner Auction Committee and all of the volunteers who helped put the event together. We are grateful for our major event sponsors and underwriters:*

*Catalyst Construction, Johnson Insurance, Dr. Plumber, Cardinal Fabricating Corp., Roman Electric, Boucher Auto Group, CG Schmidt, and Collins Engineers.*

**Save the date for next year's Dinner Auction: March 24, 2018**

**Couldn't make year's event? You can still support STM students with Fund the Future!**

At the Auction, STM launched our annual Fund the Future campaign. This campaign gives donors the opportunity to directly impact current and future generations of Cavaliers, helping them follow in Marisa's footsteps. All donations to this campaign fund scholarships for students who may otherwise be unable to afford the faith-based, transformative education offered at STM.

Each school year, roughly 80 percent of the STM student body receives some type of financial assistance to help offset the cost of tuition. Even as families make sacrifices and tighten their budgets, after paying their mortgage and other household expenses, many still have difficulty securing the \$40,000+ for four years at STM. Your support for scholarships helps bridge this gap, allowing hardworking Milwaukee families to provide their children with brighter futures.

Will you join the 60+ alumni, parents, and other dinner auction attendees who affirmed their support for scholarship funding at STM? With your support, we can ensure that no family is turned away because of their financial means.



*QuestBridge Scholar  
Marisa Garcia (STM '17)*

**To support our Fund the Future campaign, please return your tax-deductible gift in the enclosed envelope or visit [www.tmore.org/donate](http://www.tmore.org/donate)**

# Upcoming Events

Please visit [tmore.org](http://tmore.org) for more information on STM events.

**Graduation**  
June 4

**Athletic Hall of Fame Induction**  
June 24

**Alumni Soccer Tournament**  
August 5

**20th Annual Norb Wishowski Alumni Run**  
August 12

**Thomas More Open Golf Outing**  
August 14

**First Day of School**  
August 24

**Haluska Wall of Champions Induction**  
September 16

**Homecoming**  
September 23

## 2017 Cavalier Summer Camps

Register today at [tmore.org/athletics/camps](http://tmore.org/athletics/camps)



### Cross Country

June 12 - 16  
Grades 6 - 9  
\$25 per camper

### Girls Basketball

July 10 - 13  
Grades 6 - 9  
\$45 per camper

### Strength, Speed, & Agility

June 20, 22, 27, 29  
July 6, 11, 13, 18, 20  
Grades 5 - 8  
\$40 per camper

### Boys Soccer

July 17 - 21  
Grades 6 - 9  
\$45 per camper

### Boys Basketball

July 10 - 13  
Grades 4-9  
\$60 per camper

### Girls Volleyball

July 24 - 27  
Grades 5 - 9  
\$60 per camper

# Summer Alumni Events

The Athletic Hall of Fame and the Haluska Wall of Champions honor the athletes and teams who have contributed to the long legacy of success within our athletic programs. We are proud to induct the following teams and athletes this summer!



*Thomas More Football, 1973*

## Don Bosco Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Saturday, June 24, 2017

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jack Kloza (DB '53)     | Bob Rink (DB '66)         |
| Bill Rubin (DB '53)     | Mark Mulqueen (DB '67)    |
| Larry Stencil (DB '55)  | Tom Mihm (DB '68)         |
| Anthony Kujawa (DB '56) | Gary Sager (DB '69)       |
| Jim Peters (DB '62)     | Tom Giorgi (DB '70)       |
| Tom Myszewski (DB '62)  | Mark Scholz (DB '70)      |
| Dan Gaynor (DB '64)     | Mark Giorgi (DB '71)      |
| Ted Derynda (DB '65)    | Don Sager (DB '71)        |
| Tony Marino (DB '65)    | Gary Tomaszewski (DB '71) |
| Jerry Jenders (DB '66)  | Coach Andy Stefan         |



*Coach Norb Wishowski and Thomas More Cross Country, 1974*

## Haluska Wall of Champions Induction Saturday, September 16, 2017

- Pio Nono Wrestling, 1972
- Thomas More Cross Country, 1973
- Thomas More Football, 1973
- Thomas More Wrestling, 1974
- Thomas More Cross Country, 1974
- Thomas More Football, 1974
- Thomas More Wrestling, 1975
- Thomas More Baseball, 1975
- Thomas More Cross Country, 1975
- Thomas More Wrestling, 1976
- Thomas More Track & Field, 1976
- Thomas More Football, 1976
- Thomas More Cross Country, 1976

Please contact Alumni Director, Dan Steffes, at [dsteffes@tmore.org](mailto:dsteffes@tmore.org) or (414) 481-8370 x122 if you have any questions or would like to attend either event.

## In Loving Memory



Please visit [tmore.org/alumni/inlovingmemory](http://tmore.org/alumni/inlovingmemory) for a list of alumni who have recently passed into eternal life.

*Pray for me, as I will for thee, that we will merrily meet in heaven.*

*St. Thomas More, Pray for Us.*

# Thank You Notes from STM Teachers

In the spirit of Jimmy Fallon's Thank You Notes segment, our STM teachers thank the little things that make teaching easier and spark curiosity in our students.

*Thank you, Random Name Generator, for inspiring Creative Writing students to imagine so much from so little.*

To learn how to build complex characters, we went online to randomly generate names. We then brainstormed an age, interesting occupation, deep, dark secret, and mystery we imagined fitting this character. Only then could we invent a forty-year-old male archeologist who paints, raps, fears the dark, and who discovered an unknown species that discredited his lifetime research he's working so tirelessly to disprove. For this compelling story kernel—and many more to come this semester—we thank you.

- English Department

*Thank you, WeChat and FaceTime, for allowing our Chinese International students to communicate with their friends and parents back home!*

Students from the Wisconsin International Academy celebrated the Chinese New Year this winter. This festival is one of the most important dates on the Chinese Lunar Calendar, and is a time when our international students feel most alone and disconnected from their families and friends back in China. FaceTime and WeChat are especially valuable tools to help them ease their loneliness during this important time!

- International Department

*Thank you, Comfy Couches, for allowing students to study, relax, and take a break from the classroom.*

The couches in Campus Ministry are a great metaphor for the atmosphere we try to build in our room; comfortable, peaceful, diverse, and full of character, advantageous to seeking knowledge and deep faithful discussion.

- Campus Ministry



*Becca and Izzy in Campus Ministry*

*Thank you, Vinegar and Baking Soda, for teaching the chemistry students about gases, acids and bases, and iconic compounds.*

The students know these materials as acetic acid and sodium bicarbonate. And just like in grade school, they still give a “big bang” for the buck. In chemistry class, students compete to see who can fit the most of these materials into a balloon or ziploc - the largest amount of gas wins! The next time you bake a cake or eat a pickle, thank acetic acid and sodium bicarbonate. Chemistry is everywhere!

- Science Department

*Thank you Little Glass Stones, for helping our Advanced Computer Science students develop a winning strategy to win the “Take 1 to 3” game.*

When confronted with a big pile of these glorious stones, the students play the game in which the goal is to choose the last stone from the pile. Each turn, a player can take only 1, 2, or 3 stones. By playing the game with these splendid stones, the students were able to develop a winning strategy which they then coded using Java. Without you, little glass stones, we'd still be playing rock, paper, scissors.

- Engineering Department

# PREPARATION FOR SUCCESS

*Thank you, Jeweler's Saw, for sounding like the dentist's office so we know the students are cutting their metal correctly.*

Students in metals class use a jeweler's saw to create many different pieces, such as bookmarks or keychains based on a favorite book or favorite place. They will learn also how to file and sand their pieces, and buff to a high shine.

- Fine Arts Department

*Thank you, Pencil, Protractor, and Compass, for helping us be centered and make many things equal.*

Geometry class could not measure up without you. You run circles around just about everything and create a world of connectedness. We could emulate your grace on a computer, but nothing beats connecting muscle and mind. Stay sharp, until we meet again.

- Math Department

*Thank you, Language Lab, for giving AP Spanish 4 and 5 students the ability to listen to audio tracks and watch videos that help them sharpen their listening skills.*

Students visit the Language Lab several times a week to listen to all kinds of audio sources, including some which are so hard to decipher that it takes more than three repetitions to understand them. Time in the Language Lab will prepare them for the listening comprehension, speaking, and writing parts of the AP exam. We expect great things from the Spanish AP students this year on the exam!

- Spanish Department

*Thank you, Metronome and Tuning Apps, for helping our Solo and Ensemble musicians perfect their competition pieces.*

Music students spent months preparing pieces from all genres for this year's District Solo and Ensemble Festival. Musicians use tuning and metronome apps to develop perfect pitch and disciplined melody. For your sound advice and timeliness, we thank you!

- Music Department

*Thank you, Language Accents, for helping French students understand and appreciate the beautiful challenge of learning a new language.*

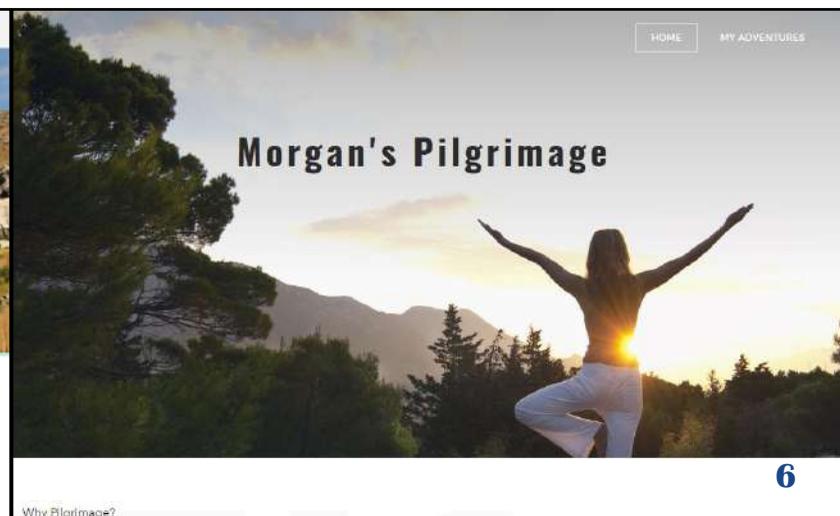
Students in French class are learning to communicate in French with proper grammar and accents. We use authentic materials in French so that students can be exposed to all aspects of the language to strengthen their skills!

- French Department

*Thank you, Weebly and Wix, for allowing our students to create virtual pilgrimages.*

Students in Comparative Religions reflected on personal spiritual questions and planned an imaginary adventure in search of answers to those questions. They then created their own websites and not only mapped their adventure, but they included sacred text and inspirational media to help the viewer understand their journey.

- Theology Department



# Alumni Spotlight: Hannah Tezak (STM '15)



Hannah Tezak (STM '15) is finishing her sophomore year at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Building on her experience in the STM Ambassador and Big Buddy programs, Tezak recently earned her membership in the UW-La Crosse's National Residence Hall Honorary, an organization made up of the top one percent of student leaders of resident life on campus. Academically, Tezak has combined her love for art and her interest in the human brain to pursue a degree in psychology with a minor in art therapy.

"I think it's fascinating that we all have the same hardware in our heads but it's wired differently," Tezak said. "I decided to incorporate art into my degree last semester when I was sitting in one of my psychology classes. Once I saw some research people had done in art therapy I was hooked."

As a lifelong artist and recipient of the Fine Arts Scholarship, Tezak found her place in the STM fine arts program. "Freshman year at STM, I took Art Fundamentals with Ms. [Jodi] Brzezinski" Tezak said. "I also tried out for the musical, *The Wiz*. I knew I needed to work on my voice, so I joined choir. I know my high school experience wouldn't have been as enjoyable if I didn't participate in these groups. I met so many amazing people and learned a lot about myself."

Tezak remembers the supportive environment and the sense of community among her peers in fine arts courses and theater productions. "Theater was a family and the support was like nothing I'd ever experienced. We picked each other up when we were down and did whatever any loving family would do. The family aspect is one thing that just about everyone who's been involved with this school can vouch for."

**"The family aspect (of STM) is one thing that just about everyone who's been involved with this school can vouch for."**

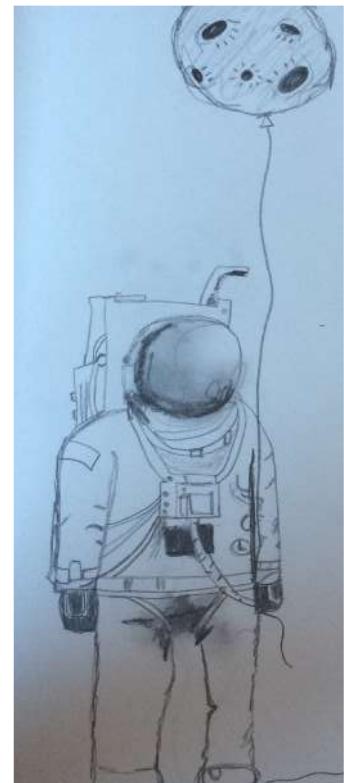
STM fine arts gave Tezak the freedom to express herself and grow as a student and artist. "In art classes, there was some structure and specific projects but Ms. Brzezinski would allow you to choose what your subject was and, that freedom of expression was something that I loved."

"Every year Hannah's strength and perseverance grew tenfold," said Ms. Jodi Brzezinski. "From the wheel in ceramics to the camera in photography, Hannah was hungry to learn everything she could."

Reflecting on her time in high school, Tezak credits STM's dedicated teaching staff for her success thus far in college. "Ms. Brzezinski was a huge influence in my art career and I learned so much from her. STM helped mold me into a moral human who respects others and shows love and compassion. My teachers gave me the tools to help make the world a better place. I can't thank them enough for helping me get ready for college because they made me work extremely hard."

Tezak encourages current and future students to take advantage of the fine arts courses offered at STM and consider art as a career path. "Art is such a huge part of the world we live in and it's not just pieces that are hanging in a museum or the stars you see on the screen and hear on the radio. Art is in designing buildings, cars, machinery and just about everywhere. It all comes down to how dedicated you are and how much you love doing what you're doing."

**"STM helped mold me into a moral human who respects others and shows love and compassion."**



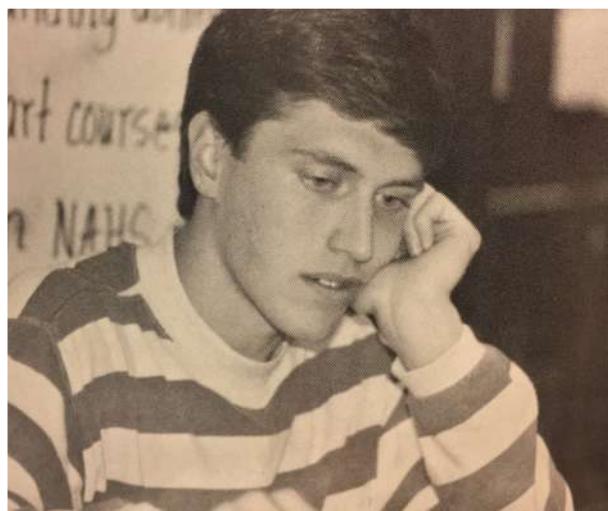
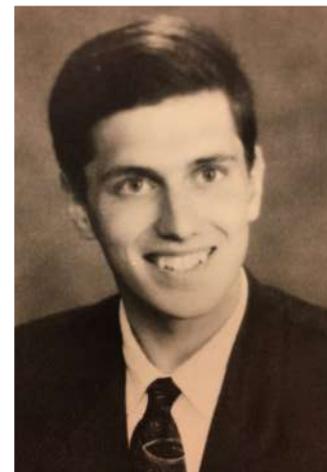
*Drawing completed  
March 8, 2017*

Congratulations, Hannah, on all your hard work and accomplishments!

# Alumni Spotlight: David Nierengarten (TM '93)

*Often, one does not fully appreciate the high school experience until many years after graduation. As you progress through college and enter the professional world, the importance of your high school education becomes more apparent. Compared to your peers, how strong is your academic foundation, not just in your major but also in skills utilized in all areas of study, such as writing, reading comprehension, and problem solving? How well did your high school prepare you to combat the many academic, personal, spiritual, and professional challenges that young people encounter in today's competitive world?*

A member of the school's first four-year co-ed class, David Nierengarten graduated from Thomas More in 1993. After graduating from Thomas More, David earned his bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his PhD, also in biochemistry, from the University of California-Berkeley. While at both Madison and Berkeley, David found himself ahead of many of his peers, even those in upper grade levels.



*Nierengarten at a TM Chess Club Meeting*

“The biggest revelation for me in college was how advanced, rigorous, and well-rounded my education at Thomas More had been,” David explained. “Even as a science major, when I went to college, I found that I was more widely read than most of the English majors. I remember my brother [Jon, TM '00] remarking similarly, even though he wasn't always the ‘ideal’ student in high school. Even after a year or two in college, we were still ahead of almost all of our peers at the university.”

Living in the California Bay Area with his wife, Kimberly, David now works as managing director for Wedbush Securities, an investment bank, where he focuses on biotechnology stocks. Despite the geographic distance, David tries to remain connected to STM and his former classmates. A member of the track and cross country teams while in high school, David returned to St. Thomas More last summer for the 19th Annual Norb Wishowski Alumni Run.

“Even though faculty like Mr. [Thomas] Glyzewski, Mr. [Gregg] Hermann, and Coach [Norb] Wishowski are no longer there, I encourage all alumni to check in with STM, even if it has been a while since your last visit,” David concluded. “While some of the people have changed, St. Thomas More still has the same high standards and innovative education that existed back when we were in high school. The school still provides students with the foundation to go out into the world and learn more from life. That appreciation for learning provides the basis for success in any career.”

**“The school still provides students with the foundation to go out into the world and learn more from life.”**

### 20th Annual Norb Wishowski Alumni Run

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Join the dozens of other Cavalier runners and save the date for this year's Norb Wishowski Alumni Run! Registration forms will be available this summer at [tmore.org](http://tmore.org).

We hope to see you there!



## The Center for Servant Leadership and Civic Engagement

### Monthly Reflection Themes

**September** *Leadership*

**December** *Belief*

**March** *Shared Life*

**October** *Humility*

**January** *Reflection*

**April** *Movement*

**November** *Wisdom*

**February** *Honor*

**May** *Opportunity*

### Freshman Leadership Retreat

The first all-class retreat for the class of 2020 was held in November. Students worked in small groups led by faculty and upperclassmen, listened intently to guest speakers, worked together in teams, and grew closer as a class during this day-long retreat.



**“My retreat experience was amazing. It taught me new ways of thinking outside the box and looking at the bigger picture.”**

*Jacob Carlson (STM '20)*

### Guest Speakers

During the Freshmen Leadership Retreat in November, Tony Arenas (TM '03) and his wife, Melissa (TM '03), gave an inspiring speech about perseverance. Arenas, who is recovering from a double lung transplant surgery caused by cystic fibrosis, talked about his faith-filled life and how he has overcome all the challenges he has faced.

**“Mr. Arenas showed us how to pull past all the troubles you have, never lose hope, and to be wise in decisions.”**

*Isabel Jimenez (STM '20)*



To prepare for the Lenten season and the January theme of *Reflection*, students gathered to listen to Fr. Michael Surufka, OFM, about finding refuge in silence during busy days. Through the story of St. Francis, students and faculty reflected on his simple yet profound prayer, “Who are you Lord, and who am I?”

In February, Kevin Hermening spoke to our students, faculty, and guests about his experiences serving in the military. Hermening, who was among the 52 Americans held captive for 444 days during the Iran Hostage Crisis, shared his unique perspective on honor, service, and volunteerism. Mr. Hermening challenged those in attendance to reflect on their daily actions: “We should always be thinking about what other people are seeing us do and hearing us say. You are always a role model to someone who is watching.” Students and faculty alike were inspired by his story.

**Do you know someone who lives as a true servant leader?  
Contact [leadership@tmore.org](mailto:leadership@tmore.org) to share their story with our program staff!**

# STM IN THE COMMUNITY

## Community Involvement



*STM Volleyball Players*

Do you know of an organization in Milwaukee that is looking for young volunteers? Let us know at [leadership@tmore.org](mailto:leadership@tmore.org)

STM volleyball players and their families helped make the holidays special for two needy families at Notre Dame School of Milwaukee. The students collected Christmas presents, clothes, and household items and delivered them to the families.

This spring, all six freshman homerooms will be planning and building a birthday box through Box of Balloons. This organization provides birthday celebrations for children living in poverty. Stay tuned to our social media pages for pictures of the completed boxes!

**“By empowering our students to give of their talents, the Box of Balloons project will bring our class together in solidarity for those who can’t afford the things we often take for granted, such as a birthday party.”**

*Tom Nass, STM Campus Minister*

## Summer Leadership Trip

This summer, the Class of 2020 will embark on a Summer Leadership Trip. Students and faculty will travel to Camp Manito-wish in Boulder Junction, Wisconsin, to navigate the Boundary Waters, build leadership skills, and grow as a school community dedicated to helping others. Local service opportunities during and after the trip anchor our students in their calling to be present for others, while the wilderness experience will challenge students to truly show each other that “I’ve got your back.” Safe travels to all of our leaders!

**“This trip provides an invaluable opportunity to put the principles of servant leadership into practice. This attitude of shared life and self-awareness is the glue that holds our student body together.”**

*Mike Greuel, STM Social Sciences Teacher & Director of the Center for Servant Leadership and Civic Engagement*



*Coach David Cooks of Concordia University mens basketball spoke about serving others*



*Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament at Freshman Leadership Bootcamp*



*STM basketball players with Kevin Hermening*



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# Save the Date

## **2017 Thomas More Open Golf Outing** **Monday, August 14, 2017** **NEW COURSE! Ironwood Golf Course, Sussex, WI**

Please join us at the 2017 TMO! Every August, friends and alumni of St. Francis Minor Seminary, Don Bosco, Pio Nono, and Thomas More come together to golf and support the legacy of our predecessor schools. All proceeds of the TMO go toward our Legacy Scholarship, providing tuition assistance for the sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters of our alumni.

**Foursome Registration**  
\$575 per foursome  
(\$525 if paid before July 1)

**Individual Registration**  
\$150 per person  
(\$110 for 2007 - 2017 alumni)

### **Registration Includes**

- Green Fee & Cart
- Lunch, Dinner, & Refreshments
- 40Nine Sports Watch
- Events & Prizes

Register now at [tmore.org/TMO](http://tmore.org/TMO)

For sponsorship information, please contact Dan Steffes at [dsteffes@tmore.org](mailto:dsteffes@tmore.org)

