



# St. Thomas More SPIRIT

St. Francis Minor Seminary

Pio Nono

Don Bosco

Thomas More



Sophomores are all smiles in their class color during the homecoming powderpuff football game.

[www.tmore.org](http://www.tmore.org)

# Fall 2016

# A message from our Principal

Dear friend of St. Thomas More,

It is with great pride and excitement that I introduce myself to you as the principal of St. Thomas More High School. For the last eight years, I have been blessed to be part of this school community as a teacher and as the assistant principal/dean of students. I am humbled to be part of the almost 150 years of tradition of St. Thomas More High School. We must continue to be innovative and be a beacon of light in our community. We must live and breathe our commitment to Leadership, Tradition, Honor, and Excellence in the city of Milwaukee and surrounding areas.

I grew up in the small farming community of Howards Grove, about 60 miles north of Milwaukee. It was here that I learned many of the values I cherish today. I learned to respect God and to respect others by doing God's will. I attended Holy Name parish in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, every Sunday with my family. After graduating from high school, I attended UW-Whitewater, where I graduated with a degree in public policy and general management. I also hold a master's degree in educational leadership from Cardinal Stritch University. My original plan was to attend law school after graduation, but I decided to join my family's business instead. I am glad I did, because this is where I found my passion for teaching. I felt God calling me to enter into the field of education. I was blessed to be hired at St. Thomas More as a social studies teacher. Over my eight years at St. Thomas More, I was able to build many relationships. I am so passionate about our school because it reminds me a lot of my hometown and the relationships I made there. This truly is a safe family environment. The mission and vision of St. Thomas More is strong and well. I look forward to what the future holds for us.

As the first quarter comes to a close, I have begun collecting data that will be used to drive our instructional decisions in the future. This information will allow us to provide our students with exciting and challenging enrichment opportunities. I will work closely with the faculty and staff of St. Thomas More to build a unique educational experience for all of our students. Let us build a better future for our communities, city, and the world. Let us rise to the challenge of being great and living in the likeness of God. Let us combine our talents and blessings, and be the change we want to see. We do More, We will be More, We are More! God bless and many prayers to all as we begin this new journey together.

On behalf of St. Thomas More High School, thank you for your generosity and prayers in making a difference in the lives of our students and the community. We are forever grateful. I am proud to continue to call myself a Cavalier.

Wishing you many blessings,



Nicholas J. Kelly



# Introducing our Academic Leadership Team

## Mary Christensen

*Assistant Principal/Dean of Students*

## Kevin Dineen

*Dean of Academics*

<b>Hometown</b>	Adams-Friendship, Wisconsin	Littleton, Colorado
<b>Education</b>	UW-Stevens Point Concordia University-Wisconsin B.A. in Spanish M.A. in Education, Curriculum & Instruction, Certification in Alternative Education M.S. in Education & Educational Leadership	Marquette University Cardinal Stritch University B.A. in English & Education M.A. in English M.S. in Educational Leadership
<b>Tenure</b>	12 years working in education	9 years working in education
<b>Hobbies and Interests</b>	Fluent in Spanish and loves traveling, her most recent trips were to Puerto Rico and China	Volunteered at the Humane Society and Interchange, has a yellow lab, and loves Star Wars
<b>Recognition</b>	Catholic Financial Life Educator of the Year (2013), Herb Kohl Fellowship Award Recipient (2011), Pius XI Good Shepherd Award Recipient (2012, 2013)	Eagle Scout, Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year 2014

**“As a Catholic educator it is my priority to provide students with experiences in which they can grow in both knowledge and faith.”**



*Mary Christensen and Kevin Dineen*

**“I believe in challenging students to explain the how and why, and using problem solving to discover those answers.”**

# Steven Kruzel, STM Board of Directors

*Steven Kruzel is one of STM's newest members of the board of directors. Welcome!*



I am the product of Catholic education and would not be where I am today without it. While I am not a St. Thomas More alumnus, there was an undeniable feeling of familiarity when I toured the halls of the school -- one of faith, community, and commitment to exemplary education. After meeting with STM's talented faculty, staff, and students, I had to become a part of St. Thomas More. With its one-of-a-kind Servant Leadership program, continually evolving STEM resources, and dedicated leadership team, STM is moving in a very exciting direction. I am thrilled to help keep the school on this course and am very grateful that I have this opportunity!

## Steven Kruzel

*Attorney, Quarles & Brady LLP*

# Upcoming Events

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

**Craft Fair**  
**November 19**

**24th Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament**  
**November 26 and 27**

**Alumni Happy Hour**  
**December 2**

**9th Annual Sheepshead Tournament**  
**January 21**

**STM Theater Presents: A Christmas Carol**  
**December 2, 3, 4 and 9, 10, 11**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass**  
**December 12**

**Alumni Girls' Basketball Game**  
**Mid-December**

**34th Annual STM Dinner Auction**  
**March 25**

## Events Review

### 2016 Thomas More Open

The 2016 Thomas More Open was a huge success! With 120 golfers and numerous dedicated volunteers, St. Thomas More raised over \$13,000 for the legacy scholarship.

Congratulations to our Blue Division winners: Sean Carney (TM '05), Tom Piwaron (TM '05), Gerry McGrath (DB '68), and Aaron Katzfey (TM '05), and our Silver Division winners: Tim Flayter (TM '85), Russ Flayter (DB '58), Jeff Flayter (TM '87), and Tom Sager (DB '60). Thank you to Evergreen Golf Club for once again hosting an awesome event!

### 19th Annual Alumni Run

The 19th Annual Alumni Run brought over 30 alumni and guests to Greene Park to run a 5K race in memory of the legendary coach Norb Wishowski. Congratulations to our overall champion, Greg Fojtik (TM '74), and our women's champion, Kristi Adyniec (TM '00).

Thank you to everyone who participated, and to Ben Rezutek (TM '93), Mike Mikula (TM '84), and Dan Steffes (TM '03) for organizing another successful Alumni Run!

### Alumni Soccer Game

Twenty alumni soccer players returned to the field at STM to play a friendly soccer match. Divided into two teams, pre-Class of 2007 and post-Class of 2007, the alumni had a great time playing with their old teammates. Thank you to the soccer program and Boys' Varsity Head Coach Kevin Dineen for putting together a great game, and to all alumni who joined us on the field!



TMO Blue Division Winners



TMO Silver Division Winners

# Haluska Wall of Champions

What began as a simple request for help became a project that created a buzz throughout the Milwaukee area. In early 2015, STM Athletic Director John Hoch met with Tom Sager (DB '60), a former teacher and coach at Don Bosco and Thomas More. Hoch asked Sager to help identify some Don Bosco athletes deserving of induction into the St. Thomas More Athletic Hall of Fame. Sager then set up some focus groups of Don Bosco alumni, and he came back with an idea: the Coach Jim Haluska Wall of Champions.

Coach Jim Haluska taught and coached at Don Bosco and St. Thomas More, winning 12 conference championships and three WISAA state championships in football. Coach Haluska's coaching techniques and sarcastic one-liners are legendary, and there is no question that his influence on Don Bosco and Thomas More athletics was profound.

This summer, the final group of Don Bosco championship teams were acknowledged. In July, the first teams coached by Haluska at Don Bosco were inducted. There were frequent references to one of Coach's standard lines when asked about one of his teams: "We're small, but slow." In August, the final group of Don Bosco teams was inducted: teams from 1966 to 1972. Again, stories of Coach Haluska were frequent, but this time, there were stories about the man who made all of this happen: Tom Sager.

One of Sager's former players, Gary Greszk, who went on to play college basketball for the legendary coach Al McGuire at Marquette University, called Sager "the best coach I've ever had." Each member of these teams in attendance received a commemorative award, and a plaque honoring their team was hung on the Haluska Wall of Champions.

The Haluska Wall of Champions has been funded through the annual Haluska Memorial Golf Outing, which in 2016 nearly doubled in size to a sold-out 144 golfers.

Whenever the Dons get together, there is always a special feeling of brotherhood in the room. St. Thomas More is proud to have the legacy of the Dons hanging in our main hallway, and we look forward to ceremonies honoring Pio Nono and Thomas More teams in the near future.

The Coach Jim Haluska Wall of Champions would not have happened without the vision, motivation, and tireless effort on the part of Tom Sager. Sager coordinated dozens of meetings, focus groups, and volunteers to make all of these events happen. St. Thomas More High School and Don Bosco are grateful for all of Sager's efforts.



*Don Bosco Championship Teams 1960-1965*



*Don Bosco Championship Teams 1966-1972*

## Update from the Center for Servant Leadership and Civic Engagement



In our Project Lead the Way Engineering Design and Development capstone course, seniors must identify a common problem in their community and work with their classmates to develop a practical solution. PLTW Master Teacher Sharon Tomski wanted the students to think globally in their brainstorming. Tomski asked Jeff Wenzler, director of the STM Center for Servant Leadership and Civic Engagement, to speak to the students about some of the unique problems that people in the impoverished Caribbean nations face on a day-to-day basis. "STM wants to unite engineering education and global poverty solutions to inspire the next generation of leaders and innovative thinkers," Wenzler said.

"I wanted my students to be aware of the problems people living in extreme poverty face in their everyday lives," said Tomski. "The servant leadership program turns the students into global thinkers, and our PLTW classes teach students how to apply their skills to solve problems faced throughout the world."

# PLTW Check-In

## Principles of Biomedical Sciences

Students are continuing to work to solve a fictional death presented to them at the beginning of the semester by analyzing the victim’s autopsy report.

**“We do a lot of hands-on activities to solve problems. The class is challenging, but it is very fun at the same time.”**

**Abby Bolanowski (STM ’20)**

## Human Body Systems

Students are learning about the functions of various regions of the brain in order to diagnose a patient with a neurological condition.

**“I’m learning things that many people don’t learn until medical school, that’s an incredible thing for a high school sophomore to get to say!”**

**Rebekah Arndt (STM ’19)**

## Medical Interventions

Students are completing labs and activities to investigate the important issue of antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

**“The best time in your education is when you are learning how to save a life.”**

**Adamaris Cuevas (STM ’18)**

## Biomedical Innovations

The seniors are creating systems to improve patient care in emergency rooms as well as beginning their independent, yearlong projects.

**“My independent project has helped me understand what a professional researcher goes through every day.”**

**Felix Sanchez (STM ’17)**

# STEM Coordinator: Sharon Tomski

Sharon Tomski has been teaching engineering and math at STM since 2005. As one of our Project Lead the Way Master Teachers, she has been dedicated to creating innovating lessons and teaching to fit how students learn. This fall, she was named STM’s STEM coordinator.

**“Our PLTW program is well-established and continues to attract students. The “activity-project-problem” approach to learning developed by PLTW has been shown to improve ACT scores. As STEM coordinator, I’m hoping to keep up our school’s momentum as a leader in innovation and use of technology. We are also working to tie together all aspects of our STEM curriculum to help our students become better problem solvers.”**



# PREPARATION FOR SUCCESS

## Introduction to Engineering Design

Students are studying inventions that changed the world and creating timelines of those inventions.

**“My favorite part the class is that it challenges me to become a spontaneous thinker.”**  
**Holden Snyder (STM '20)**

## Principles of Engineering

Students are designing a compound machine using levers, pulleys, wheels, wedges, inclined planes, gears, and sprockets.

**“The class gives me the opportunity to try new ideas and have a one-of-a-kind piece of work in this class.”**  
**Matt Wejrowski (STM '19)**

## Computer Science and Software Engineering

Computer Science students are testing their own unique Android App while the Advanced Computer Science students are beginning to use Android Studio to code and test Android Apps.

**“We are given the freedom to discover the program on our own and learn in our own way.”**  
**Steve Essex (STM '17)**

## Digital Electronics

Digital Electronics students are discovering the outputs of basic computer chips and circuits using solderless breadboards.

**“We learn what makes laptops and smartphones function, which is very applicable as a teenager today.”**  
**Kat Kodaski (STM '18)**

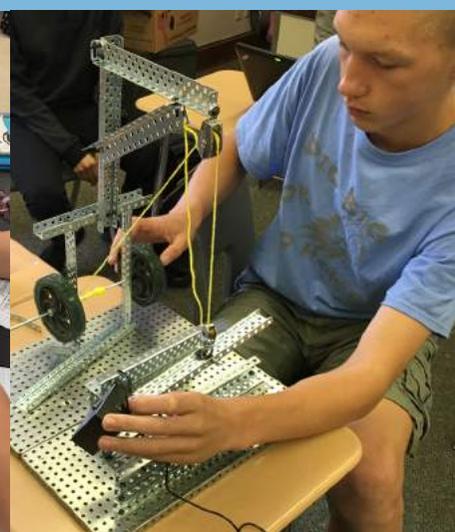
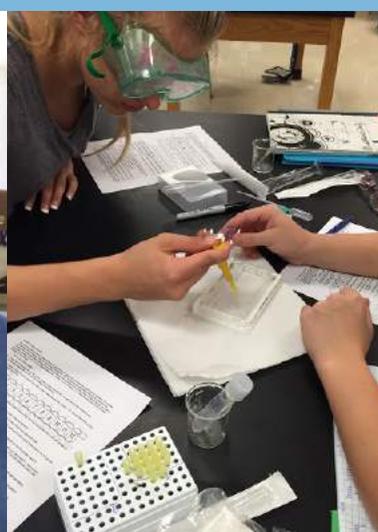
## Engineering Design and Development

Seniors are interviewing consumers and experts to develop concise problem statements for their independent projects, where they take a problem from the community and create a solution for it.

**“This class is a fantastic way to develop your own ideas that will solve problems relevant to today’s society.”**  
**Sandro Storniolo (STM '17)**



*Seniors speak with an engineer during their “Speed Dating” brainstorming session, where they met with 10 different professionals for four minutes each.*



# Student Spotlight: Frances Dobbs

This summer, Frances Dobbs (STM '17) spent three weeks at a school in the East African nation of Rwanda, helping set up a new library for its students. What started as a casual conversation about the school with her aunt turned into a journey across the world that Frances will never forget.



*Helen Maier, Cynthia Reyes, and Frances Dobbs sorting books for the book drive held at STM*

At STM, Dobbs is involved heavily in Campus Ministry and community service. “The biggest way that STM has impacted my life has been through the wonderful retreats, my theology classes, and through service,” Dobbs explained. “It is amazing to work with others through service and really feel how connected helping others is to God.”

Dobbs’s journey began in 2013 when her aunt started Amahoro Children’s School in Musanze, Rwanda. With nearly 40 percent of the country living in extreme poverty, most Amahoro students cannot pay tuition, but the school strives to provide education to everyone, regardless of income. Immediately Dobbs knew that she wanted to help the school in any way that she could. While she was in middle school, Dobbs began helping the school collect basic supplies for her Girl Scout Silver Award project, and when the time came to think about her Girl Scout Gold Award project in 2015, she wanted to think bigger. Through brainstorming and conversations with her aunt, Dobbs came up with the idea to start a school library, a very rare resource for Rwandan schools.

“I had heard of the beautiful Rwandan people and culture from my aunt,” Dobbs explained. “Knowing that I would get to finally visit the school made me so excited.” Dobbs started the book collection process at area parishes and at St. Thomas More. St. Thomas More students alone contributed over 400 books to the drive.

Dobbs then traveled with eight suitcases filled with over 800 books to Rwanda. “People at the school were incredibly grateful. They never imagined having access to a library full of books,” she explained.

Accomplishing the requirements for her Girl Scout Gold Award wasn’t the best part of Dobbs’ trip. “Yes, I set up a library and received my Gold Award,” she said, “but the true gift was how the experience taught me the greatest lessons in unconditional love, humility, and faith. Despite the many obstacles present in their daily lives, they gleam with God’s joy.”



*Frances in the village of Vunga*

Faith formation and service are important pieces of the St. Thomas More curriculum. “Frances’s service in Rwanda exemplifies the type of global thinkers and servant leaders that we want our students to be,” said STM Principal Nic Kelly. “We at St. Thomas More are incredibly proud of Frances and all she has accomplished.”



**“The experience taught me the greatest lessons in unconditional love, humility, and faith.”**

# Alumni Spotlight: The Gardetto Family

*The Gardetto family continues their legacy long past their graduation days*

The Gardetto family has a long history at St. Thomas More. While their sisters Nan and Luann attended St. Mary's Academy, Johnny, Greg, and Gary Gardetto spent their high school years at Thomas More, graduating in 1980, 1981, and 1984. Their parents, who received our Chancellor Award in 2013, also attended the schools, with their father, the late John Gardetto, graduating from Don Bosco in 1953 and their mother, Judy, from St. Mary's Academy in 1955. The Gardetto family has long been strong supporters of the school, from the creation of our John B. Gardetto Technology Center in 2001 to the establishment of the Gardetto Scholars program in 2016.

Now, the Gardetto brothers are taking on their family's legacy. In addition to supporting the school financially, they have served the St. Thomas More community, providing their expertise for several important planning committees.

"Your high school years are very influential in determining the path your life will take and the type of person you are to become," Greg said. "We have remained connected to St. Thomas More because we see our Thomas More experience as having been a very positive factor in our lives and would like to see others experience that as well."

"Now that I have kids, I realize how important it is for them to receive the best education possible," Gary said. "I want my kids to have the same kind of experience I had in high school."

Part of this experience is the opportunity to develop and mature as a leader. In partnership with Nan Gardetto and the EverydayGood Foundation, St. Thomas More introduced a first-of-its-kind servant leadership program that integrates into the academic curriculum and emphasizes community service and civic engagement.

**"Whether it is the STM Auction, TMO golf outing, or even the reunions, it is important to give back and reconnect with your classmates."**

The Gardettos believe that this new servant leadership program can take St. Thomas More to the next level. "St. Thomas More is positioning itself to create great community leaders. This school has the vision and developmental programs to provide the right tools to build great leaders for tomorrow," Johnny explained.

Much like our recent graduates, the Gardettos fondly remember the close-knit, family-like atmosphere at Thomas More. "My favorite memories were just hanging out with friends at lunchtime sharing stories and working on assignments," Johnny said. "It was times like those which built great friendships."

Just as it does today, athletics also played a key role in creating this close-knit environment at Thomas More. "My days playing baseball for Coach [Joe] Zolecki stand out as some of my best memories, I was lucky to play on some great teams with some great athletes," Gary said.

The Gardetto family encourages others to re-engage with the school if they haven't stayed connected. "Thomas More has great people in place who can make this school even better. We need alumni to step up and support STM," Gary said. "Private schools need their alumni. Whether it is the STM Auction, TMO golf outing, or even the reunions, it is important to give back and reconnect with your classmates."



*Top Row: Greg, Johnny, & Gary;  
Bottom Row: Nan, Judy, & Luann Gardetto*

**Thank you so much to the Gardetto family for all of their hard work and dedication to STM's mission!**

# CAVALIER STRONG

*Congratulations to all of STM's fall sports teams and athletes!*

**CROSS COUNTRY**



**SWIM & DIVE**



**SOCCER**



**TENNIS**



**POMS**



**GOLF**



**FOOTBALL**



**VOLLEYBALL**



## Congratulations!

**Sara Arnas (TM '00)** recently received a fellowship to the American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. While there she took part in The Getty Foundation Leadership Series and co-presented “Grant Writing Basics for Small Museums.”

**Taryn Conklin (TM '05)** recently placed 3rd at the Mixed Martial Arts World Championships in Las Vegas. She will compete in the Euro Championships in Prague. Pending approval of MMA by the International Olympic Committee, she is excited to compete for Team USA in the 2020 Summer Olympics.

**Sara Feuling (TM '04)** has been selected as a Rising Young Professional of the Year by the *Daily Reporter* “Newsmakers of the Year” selection, which honors leaders from every level of construction, design, and development. She will be featured with the other honorees in a special October edition of the paper.

**Anne Gates (STM '11)** married Jed Wardecke at St. Veronica’s Parish on October 1.

**Trevor Hoernke (STM '09)** graduated from St. Cloud State University in May 2015. He earned his bachelor’s degree in environmental science. He is currently employed by City of Milwaukee working in the Environmental Engineering Department with Storm Water Management and Advanced Planning.

**Kyle James (STM '11)** won the BRICO Milwaukee Filmmaker’s Grant for the second year in a row for a film he is making in collaboration with Michael Bourne (STM '11). Last year he won the grant to help develop his new movie script, and this year he won the grant to help with legal fees, location scouting, prop making, and animation equipment.

**Joseph Parajecki (TM '86)** opened Kettle Range Meat Company, an old fashioned butcher shop featuring meat from only farms in Southeast Wisconsin.

**Catherine Rasman (TM '97)** married JT Current in Zihutenjo, Mexico. Kate is the Senior Director of Customer Experience at Zywave. The couple lives in Delavan with their golden retriever, Lily.

Do you have a class note that you would like to share?  
Contact Alumni Director Dan Steffes: [dsteffes@tmore.org](mailto:dsteffes@tmore.org)

## In Loving Memory

All of our deceased alumni and alumni family members will be offered as a special intention at our November 1st All Saints Mass.

Please visit our website, [tmore.org/alumni/inlovingmemory](http://tmore.org/alumni/inlovingmemory), for a list of our recent loved ones who have 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.*



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# Expand the STM Community!

Do you know a current 7th or 8th grader who would be interested in a Catholic, college preparatory education? Invite them to visit STM! Students of all grade levels from all schools are welcome to schedule a tour or shadow day. All interested families should visit our website to set up their visit to STM.

[tmore.org/admissions](http://tmore.org/admissions)

67

Number of grade schools  
represented at STM.



75%

Of current STM  
freshmen shadowed last  
year.