



# SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

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**April 2023 eNews**

***Flowers (& finals) are coming up quickly!***



Hello Alumni, Family, and Friends,

It is such a pleasure to send greetings to each of you from MOVE. As we find our way to mid-April, we would also like to wish you a Happy National Volunteer Month. This time of the semester is one of fullness and celebration, and the spring of 2023 is offering countless opportunities for MOVE to show up in and for the community, near and far, in meaningful ways. We are honored to continue to grow over fifteen partnerships with local, nonprofit agencies and schools and more than ten collaborations across seven service trip locations. Our incredible students are participating at high rates and the engagement is deep, thoughtful, and transformative.

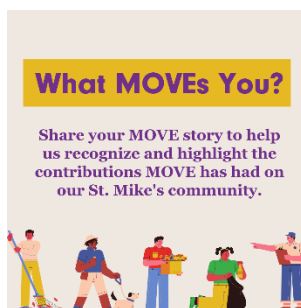
Witnessing students, faculty, and staff engaging with service and justice through our volunteer programs is energizing, and hearing personal reflections on the meaning made during and after service is more than inspiring. Particularly during

National Volunteer Month, I am reminded that community service opportunities hold a breadth and depth that is important to acknowledge. Our approach is community partner centered and need-based, which allows our programs to address immediate need in the community as articulated by agencies who know those needs best. Moreover, with our priority of justice threaded throughout our work, we are also afforded opportunities to notice and name *injustice* and work towards systemic community change. This intersection of service and justice is a beautiful representation of our Edmundite history and foundation; it motivates and inspires our work daily.

MOVE exists today, in large part, because of what *you* contributed before today. With that in mind, it is important to stay connected and create spaces for involvement whenever possible. During this National Volunteer Month of April, we invite you to participate in our [What MOVEs You? Campaign](#) by submitting your MOVE story. And, for those who live locally, please consider volunteering alongside our current students April 17-22 as part of our [Serve with an Alum themed week](#). We also see deep value in our current student leaders learning from you and your experiences. Should you have any interest in being part of our student leadership training, please reach out to me at [lscott@smcvt.edu](mailto:lscott@smcvt.edu). We love talking with alumni, family, and friends and hearing your stories, so please stay in touch or, even better, stop in for a visit when you are in the area!

Have a joy-filled spring, and thank you for staying engaged and being a piece of the thread that connects us!

Sincerely,  
Lara Scott, Director of MOVE



## Happy National Volunteer Month! What MOVEs You?

Founded in 1989 by Fr. Mike Cronogue, S.S.E., and led by some of St. Mike's finest employees and student volunteers, Mobilization of Volunteer Efforts (MOVE) is at the heart of what sets St. Mike's apart: our commitment to *Do Well and Do Good* in as many ways as possible. The

experiences that MOVE provides have impacted students and alumni for decades and played a treasured role in the St. Mike's experience. Although much of the service is local – from senior citizen games and correctional volleyball to Winooski recreation and Little Brother, Little Sister – MOVE is nationally recognized for service trips and the impact our Purple Knights have made in communities around the country. So, what MOVEs you? [Share your MOVE story with us](#) for a chance to be featured on the website. For our local alumni, check out the [Alumni Events Calendar](#) to find local opportunities to serve this month.

## Reunion 2023 Registration is live!

We are thrilled to announce that you may now register for Reunion 2023! All classes ending in 3s and 8s were sent an email with the link to Reunion registration, with classmates eagerly beginning to purchase their tickets for a can't-miss Reunion 2023, happening this June 2-4. From class receptions across Burlington and Winooski on Friday night, to a busy Saturday of programming featuring annual traditions such as the Fun Run, the Memorial Service, the Purple and Gold Brunch and culminating in the P-Knight Party on the 300s field, there's something for everyone at Reunion. While we're celebrating the 3s and 8s, all are welcome at Reunion.



[Register for Reunion 2023!](#)



## Athletics Hall of Fame 2023 Class announced: Four Legendary Figures and 1983 Women's Skiing Team to be inducted

The Saint Michael's College Department of Athletics announced its 2023 Athletic Hall of

Fame class on Wednesday, with four new members and the 1983 women's skiing team set to be enshrined at the 34th Athletic Hall of Fame Reception on Friday evening, Sept. 22, 2023 in the Roy Room in the College's Dion Family Student Center. The Class of 2023 comprises: Peter Culhane '61, two-time conference skiing champion; Alex Okosi '98, men's basketball alumnus and international pop culture media mogul; Drew Best '04, NCAA Championship-qualifying men's cross country runner; Ashley Harkins '09, record-setting and two-time all-league first team softball player; and the 1983 women's skiing team, the College's first program to win a league championship. Congratulations, Peter, Alex, Drew, Ashley, and 1983 women's skiing team!

[Read the full article on the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2023.](#)

## Three Saint Michael's students win Fulbrights for study years in Mexico, Spain, and Vietnam



Two Saint Michael's seniors and a 2022 graduate are winners this year of prestigious and highly competitive Fulbright scholarships to study abroad in the

coming year: Hayley Jensen '22 will study in Vietnam, Jeremy Little '23 in Spain, and Aisha Navarrete '23 in Mexico. Two alternates were also selected: Jeson Li '23 (Lithuania) and Alexyah Dethvongsa '22 (Thailand). "Unfortunately, our other two semi-finalists, Scott Czerwinski '23 (South Korea) and Sydney Nelson '23 (France) were not selected," Trish Siplon of the Political Science department said. "The other four applicants for this year (Ashley DeLeon '23, Adrien Harwood '23, Carson O'Neil '23 and Abby Poisson '22) all had excellent applications but did not advance to the semi-finals. I think in all, these 11 were as a group the strongest set of applicants we've ever had." Siplon said the success that Saint Michael's had with Fulbright this year is part of a larger story about the success of internationalization efforts at the College via the [Center for Global Engagement](#). Congratulations, Aisha, Hayley, and Jeremy!

[Read the full story on the Saint Michael's 2023 Fulbright scholars.](#)



## Destination DC: Global Careers Trip and Purple and Gold Day collide in successful celebration

A group of eleven current Saint Michael's students, sponsored by the [Center for Global Engagement \(CGE\)](#) in collaboration with the [Boucher Career Education Center \(BCEC\)](#), took a trip to Washington, D.C., at the end of March. The students, from first-years to seniors, many of whom had never visited the nation's capital, began their visit with a nighttime tour of the monuments, then spent the following day fully engaged with leaders and alumni around the city. At the State Department, they met with Darion Akins, Diplomat-in-Residence for DC Metro, a colleague of Michelle Kayser '08, who serves as Diplomat-in-Residence for New England. The group traveled to Capitol Hill, where they were warmly welcomed by Liz Johnson '06, chief of staff to Senator Mitt Romney. The group of students also served as the stars of the DC Purple & Gold alumni event, drawing alumni from 1984 to 2022 to downtown DC for a lively celebration and networking social.

[Read the full report on the DC Careers visit.](#)

## Event-filled Spring Semester for Saint Michael's College Alumni Engagement: What's Next?

For the Office for Alumni and Family Engagement, it's been a busy beginning to 2023! The virtual Faculty Speaker Series kicked things off during the first two weeks of January and set the stage for what ended up being a jam-packed semester of events held locally and abroad, virtually and in person, and for alumni, students, and parents alike. Most recently,



we hosted an Alumni and Admissions joint event at Hawk Ridge Winery in Watertown, CT, on April 5th, and we're looking forward to a Day at the Beach at Arapahoe Basin Ski Area in Dillon, CO, on May 7th. From larger-scale events, such as our Purple & Gold Day celebrations held across the country on March 30th to local engagement opportunities like the Memory Care panel presentation held on campus on April 12th, one thing is for certain: Purple Knights want to find ways to come together in their community. If you're interested in getting together with Purple Knights near you, or hosting an event for incoming first year students this summer, please reach out to [events@smcvt.edu](mailto:events@smcvt.edu).



## Saint Michael's faculty discuss artificial intelligence and art at Burlington City Arts

According to student reporter Sebastian Revesz '26, there was a large Saint Michael's presence on a panel presentation and discussion at Burlington City Arts on Wednesday, March 29th. Saint Michael's Philosophy Professor and Department Chair Crystal L'Hote and Fine Arts lecturer and art critic Peter Gallo spoke alongside UVM's Randall Harp regarding their thoughts on the idea of artificial intelligence's presence and application in the creation of art. Panel participants agreed: as one of the area's major colleges, an active Saint Michael's presence in different off-campus communities, particularly its regular presence in the wider art community, is integral to the College's connection to the surrounding Vermont citizens. Saint Michael's College is proud to be a part of these community conversations as we continue to see the impact and influence of AI in the greater society.

[Watch the Ethical Implications of AI panel discussion at Burlington City Arts.](#)

## Alumni Spotlight: Tom Burke '08 self-publishes new children's book *Daring Duck*



In *The Daily Item*, Emily Pauls featured Purple Knight Tom Burke '08 of Swampscott, MA as he checked an item off his bucket list this past March by becoming an author. *Daring Duck*, his debut children's book, is about trying new things and gaining confidence, themes Burke said were inspired by his children: he and his wife Kathleen, also from the Class of 2008, share a five-year-old and a seven-year-old. The book's description states: "Through Daring's inspiring story, children will learn the importance of perseverance, determination, and a positive attitude. They will be encouraged to embrace new experiences, take risks, and believe in themselves. With colorful illustrations and a delightful story, *Daring Duck* is the perfect book for children ages 4-9 who love

animals, nature, adventure and friends.” While this book is not yet available in local bookstores, you can [find it on Amazon](#). Congratulations, Tom!

[Read the full article on Tom's new children's book.](#)



## Thank you from Saint Michael's Rugby teams!

The Saint Michael's College Men's and Women's rugby teams would like to thank the SMC community for all of their support during this year's Rugby Challenge. With the help of gifts like yours, the teams and their respective coaches are

able to do more to recruit, train, and maintain excellence as they finish their seasons and plan ahead for years to come. If you missed the Challenge, you can still make a gift today to show your SMC Rugby Pride.

[Make a gift to SMC Rugby.](#)

## Upcoming Alumni Events

In addition to the events highlighted below, we have plans in the works in New Jersey, San Diego, Worcester, MA, Burlington, and more! Keep an eye on [our events calendar](#) as details are confirmed. Interested in planning an event in your area? Email [events@smcvt.edu](mailto:events@smcvt.edu).

**April 26th:** Join fellow Purple Knights in Hartford for a community service project. In the spirit of the Edmundite tradition of service to others and as part of National Volunteer Month, the Saint Michael's Club of Hartford invites you to cook and serve dinner together at a local homeless shelter. The group will meet at [ImmaCare](#) at 5:30 pm. This event has been organized by MaryJoan Picone '87. [RSVP today!](#)

**May 4th:** NYC Purple Knights, join us for an evening with Heidi St. Peter '96. As director of the newly created [Purposeful Learning Program](#) at Saint Michael's College, Heidi will share information about the College's initiative to support students to achieve lives of purpose and fulfillment both during and after college. [RSVP for the Meet and Greet today!](#)

**May 7th:** Rocky Mountain Purple Knights, join us for a day at [the Beach at Arapahoe Basin](#) in Summit County, CO. We've reserved a spot for the SMC community to meet up, grill some food, and drink a beer or two! There is no charge for this event. For skiers and snowboarders, if you plan on hitting the slopes, you can use your Ikon pass or purchase a lift ticket on their website. [RSVP for A Basin today!](#)

**May 14th:** Saint Michael's College is celebrating its 116th Commencement on campus in the Ross Sports Center. Tickets are required for this event, but you can find more information and the livestream link on [our website](#).

**June 2nd-4th:** Reunion 2023 Registration is now open! We can't wait to celebrate the classes ended in 3s and 8s. [Register for Reunion today!](#)

**June 29th:** Saint Michael's night at the Lake Monsters! Save the date, more information to come.

**July 15th:** Saratoga Purple Knights, let's get ready for the races! Saint Michael's has reserved the Big Red Tent for opening day at the [Saratoga Race Course](#). Hotels in the area are booking up fast-- a room block will be available soon, but book your accommodations today! Save the date, more information to come.



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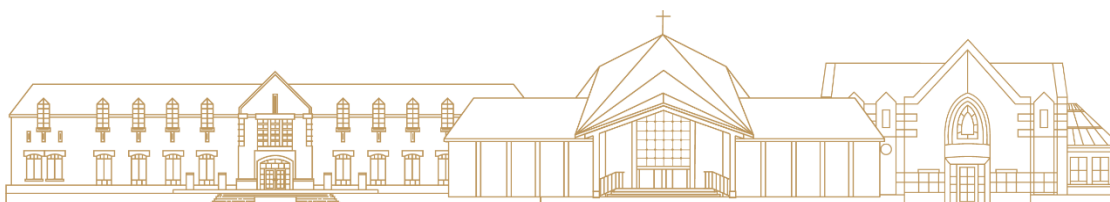


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