



# SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE FOUNDED 1904

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January 2023 eNews

*Happy new year, SMC!*



Dear Fellow Alumni, Parents and Friends,

A Happy New Year to all! And, for those of us who have some French-Canadian ancestry, the well-wishes of *Un Bonne et Heureuse Année* along with *Le Paradis à la Fin de Vos Jours* for the New Year, are an earnest reminder to all of the Christmas graces we have just experienced.

This past Advent and Christmas had a special feel for the Edmundite and Saint Michael's College "families." I feel the tone was set by members of our worship

and college community who first adorned the season with words of rejoicing with, and welcoming, one another. For us Edmundites, the season felt particularly grace-filled, punctuated with decorating the tree, and enjoying Christmas night dinner together. (Naturally, some visits with my own family seemed to round off the Holiday blessings.)

At St. Mike's, it will be a blessing to welcome back our students for the spring semester this weekend. They are the perpetuation of Love of God made manifest during the Holidays. Classes begin on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a holiday that celebrates the remarkable legacy of Dr. King. It calls to mind the core Edmundite value of social justice and the work of the late Father Maurice Ouellette, who was heavily involved in civil and voting rights organizing during the 1960s in Selma, Alabama. As our students reflect on Dr. King's *Beloved Community*, we look towards a future in our own SMC community that promotes equity and opportunities to learn and grow in the Edmundite traditional values of social justice, education, spiritual renewal and ministry.

My prayer is now that God's love may be with all our alums, your families, and the communities you belong to, during 2023. Also, I hope that *you* will pray for the well-being of our noble College, and especially that you will encourage young women and men around you to take advantage of the unique human experience that is Saint Michael's College.

Most sincerely,

Fr. Marcel Rainville, S.S.E. '67  
Edmundite Campus Ministry

## Saint Michael's celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Saint Michael's College will celebrate its 31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation starting with a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration on Monday, January 16, and concluding with the Annual MLK Convocation Keynote speaker on Tuesday, January 31. This year's keynote speaker is Margaret A. Burnham, sponsored by the Sutherland Lecture Series. The MLK Convocation is organized by the student-led Martin Luther King, Jr. Society, the Office of the President, the Diversity Coalition, the MLK Convocation Planning Committee, and the Center for Student Diversity, Empowerment, and Community. This year we are offering a variety of

**31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
CONVOCATION**

**DAY OF CELEBRATION**  
MONDAY, JANUARY 16 // 9:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

<p><b>BOOK CENTER / 1ST FLOOR // 9 A.M. – 6 P.M.</b></p> <p>Welcoming Remarks with Ursula Dowd-Bernick, VP for Student Affairs, President Jerome Stearns, and the MLK Jr. Society</p> <p>Honoring MLK by Exploring Children's Literature that Celebrates Black Joy and Inspiration with Valerie King-Nelson, Professor of Education &amp; Kristin Nichols, Library Associate Director</p> <p>The Life &amp; Philosophy of MLK: How Dr. King's Legacy Contributes to the Creation of the Beloved Community with Vanessa Walker, Student Success Advisor</p> <p>Take My Hand, Precious Lord with William Ellis, Associate Professor of Music</p> <p>Claiming the Promises with Stefano Kemahonu-Pumeha, Ph.D.</p> <p>There is a River, Vincent Harding, Bob Moore, MLK and Neveah's Boat with Jollette Anderson-Cooking, Edmundite Society &amp; Residence</p> <p>Student Panel Discussion with Moderator Sarah M. Chaffin, Director of DEC and MLK Jr. Society, Diversity Coalition, and individual student leaders</p> <p>MLK Social Hour with food from SMC-owned businesses</p> <p>Performance by the Congregational Catholic Choir hosted by Chastion Lewis, Assistant Director of DEC, with closing remarks by Fr. David Theroux, SMC</p> <p><b>FOOD DRIVE IN THE BOY ROOM!</b> Please bring your non-perishable food pantry donations to support the SMC Food Pantry &amp; the Wisconsin Food Shelf</p> <p><b>UPDATES</b> SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SOCIETY, THE CENTER FOR STUDENT DIVERSITY, EMPowerMENT, AND COMMUNITY, AND THE DIVERSITY COALITION</p>	<p><b>BOOK CENTER / 2ND FLOOR // 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.</b></p> <p>Eyes on the Prize Music: Praise God, Praise Hosted by MLK Jr. Society, Diversity Coalition, Center for Student Diversity, Empowerment, &amp; Community, and MOBE</p> <p><b>COLLEGE / BOYING ROOM // 12:00 – 1 P.M.</b></p> <p>Saint Michael's Gospel Choir Directed by Terina Weller, Student Success Advisor</p> <p><b>BOOK CENTER / UNDERSTAIRS // 3 P.M.</b></p> <p>MLK Day Creative Space Button making, liner cutting, etc. and more</p>
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BY THE  
THE COMMITTEE  
SOCIETY

SAINT MICHAEL'S  
COLLEGE

programming focused on Dr. King's *Beloved Community*, racial equity, social justice, and opportunities to collectively educate, learn, and grow.

[Read the full schedule for the MLK Jr. Day of Celebration.](#)



## Alumni Spotlight: Senator Patrick Leahy '61 retires from U.S. Congress

On December 20, 2022, Senator Patrick Leahy '61 gave his final speech on the Senate floor, concluding his 48-year career as an elected public servant to the state of Vermont. Casting over 17,000 votes and working with over 400 senators, the former senator certainly made waves from his first election in 1974, when he was the youngest U.S. senator elected in Vermont history at age 34. He held important roles during his time in Washington, D.C, such as President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the latter of which enabled him to secure [historic grant funding in the amount of \\$6.5 million](#) for Saint Michael's College and our Center for the Environment. In his memoir, *The Road Taken*, he writes about his days at Saint Michael's and the mentors who influenced him along the way, including Professor Ed Pfeifer '43. Thank you, Senator Leahy, and congratulations on your well-deserved retirement!

## Student-athletes making headlines as alumni

Even after their time on campus, Saint Michael's College student-athletes continue to accomplish amazing feats that make us proud! On Nov. 19, softball alumna Leigh Brandenburg '22 graduated from United States Marine Corps Officer Candidates

School at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Eric Libardoni '05, a two-time baseball captain, was among 10 individuals and two teams inducted into the Brattleboro Union High School Athletic Hall of Fame on Nov. 5. Former field hockey standout Kelsie Miller '16 was among five individuals and one team inducted into the Narragansett Regional High School Athletic Hall of Fame in Baldwinville, Mass., on Oct. 15. Congratulations, Leigh, Eric, and Kelsie!



[Read the full story about SMC student-athlete alumni success.](#)



## Graduate Education opportunities at SMC

Did you know Saint Michael's College offers a variety of Graduate Certificate programs? Whether you are interested in boosting your resume to get ahead in your teaching career or if you work in healthcare and want to better understand public health and health

equity, there are professional development and endorsement opportunities at SMC! Explore the options for accomplishing your goals through a flexible and personalized in-person or online Graduate programs at Saint Michael's College. Contact Nick Drake at [ndrake2@smcvt.edu](mailto:ndrake2@smcvt.edu) with any questions about the programs or admission requirements.

[Learn more about Graduate programs at Saint Michael's.](#)

## Resurgent numbers for Study Abroad after pandemic a good sign, as 30 heading out soon

Saint Michael's Study Abroad Director Peggy Imai often hears from returning students about the life-changing self-assurance they gain from global experiences that instill new confidence to handle whatever challenges life might present. One recent example is Rebekah Underwood '24, the fall semester's lone study abroad student who recently returned from a successful semester in Samoa. "Her final day send-off gift was a magnitude 6.7 earthquake that Rebekah claims was no big deal," wrote Imai in her customary mid-December message to faculty about Study Abroad comings and goings. "Handling anything" long has been part of Imai's job description, but particularly so since the COVID pandemic hit Study Abroad programs hard worldwide for the past three years. Emblematic of a strong comeback are about 30 students heading out from St. Mike's to spring semesters around the world-- we can't wait to see where their adventures take them!



[Read Imai's full Study Abroad update.](#)



## **Free Press cites Patterson in Catholic issues piece**

When staff reporter Dan D'Ambrosio of the *Burlington Free Press*, a daily newspaper and website, wrote an extended article in late December about recent issues challenging the Catholic Church in Vermont, he interviewed Saint Michael's Religious Studies Chair Raymond Patterson. He was sure to mention Ray's teaching

at the College in his citation: "Ray Patterson, chair of religious studies at St. Michael's College, said he shows students in his classes a map of the United States that breaks down the states by the percentage of their populations that attend church services, a study done by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University. 'The part of the of the country that attends services the least by far is New England,' Patterson said." To see our distinguished Saint Michael's faculty cited as references in news media is always exciting!

[Read full Free Press story quoting Patterson.](#)

## **Mark your calendars! Purple & Gold Day is March 30th!**

This year, Saint Michael's College is celebrating our annual Purple & Gold Day on Thursday, March 30th. Purple Knight socials and meetups are being planned across the country, from New England to the West Coast, and you don't want to miss out!

Keep an eye on the alumni events calendar for updates to Purple & Gold Day locations. If you want to be involved in planning an event in your city, reach out to [events@smcvt.edu](mailto:events@smcvt.edu). Go, Purple Knights!



## **Upcoming Alumni Events**

In-person events are back! In addition to the events highlighted below, we have plans in the works in New Jersey, San Diego, Worcester, MA, Burlington, and more! If you're located in Quebec or elsewhere in Canada, be sure to reach out with your current contact information as we plan to take our alumni events international! 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).

**January 28th:** The Connecticut Valley St. Mike's Lunch Bunch invite you to the SMC Women's (1pm) and Men's (3:30pm) basketball games and the post-game(s) social on Saturday, January 28th. Please come and support the teams when they take the court against longtime rival American International College (AIC)! The postgame social is at Nathan Bill's Bar & Restaurant (please note the

updated location). To RSVP, please reach out to Andy McElroy '71 at [andymcelroyjr@gmail.com](mailto:andymcelroyjr@gmail.com) and Tom O'Hara '74 at [tohara@olympiasales.net](mailto:tohara@olympiasales.net).

**February 8th:** Boston-area alumni, are you feeling the luck of the Irish? Cheer on the Celtics as they go up against the Philadelphia 76ers! The game starts at 7:30pm with a pregame social before at [Causeway Boston](#) beginning at 5:30pm. While all are welcome to attend the pregame social, the group tickets to the game are sold out. To be added to a waitlist for the game, please email [events@smcvt.edu](mailto:events@smcvt.edu).

**February 8th:** Philly folks, let's cheer on the 76-ers while SMC is at the game! Save the date, invite to come!

**Reunion 2023 is June 2-4! All classes ending in 3s and 8s, we can't wait to see you then! [Let us know if you want to be involved in the Reunion Committee for your class!](#)**

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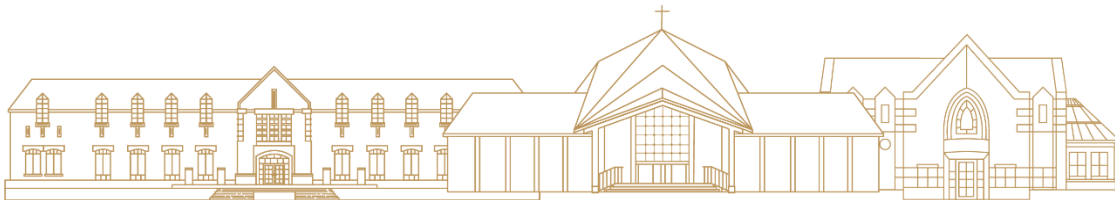
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