



# SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

FOUNDED  
1904

July 2023 eNews

*Summer research is well underway!*



*This summer, Saint Michael's is proud to host [this group of talented and motivated students for their research](#) on campus.*

Dear Saint Michael's Community,

The summer season at Saint Michael's is in full-swing, with a variety of different activities occurring on campus. The Accelerated Summer College is offering about 40 online undergraduate courses, and there are an equal number of graduate course offerings, some in-person and some online. Over twenty SMC

students are working with faculty on student-faculty research, with a mix of internal and external funding. The internal funding comes from generous alumni donors, including those who have contributed to the Jack Neuhauser fund for research. The STEM fields are well-represented, but we also have projects in the social sciences and the humanities. Environmental water quality, research on diabetes, and the ideology of Christian nationalism are just some of the topics the students are tackling. All students are expected to present the results of their findings at some public forum; many will present with their mentors at regional or national conferences, and some will present at next year's Academic Symposium on campus, held each April. In addition to summer researchers, many other students live on campus in the summer in order to work for various offices, often in career-advancing roles in places like Information Technology and the Library. The work of Saint Michael's Fire and Rescue never takes a holiday, and many students are on campus for the summer to perform that vital service for our surrounding communities. Summer is also a busy time for the SMC Farm, Teaching Gardens, and Natural Area, all part of the Center for the Environment. Not on campus, but still a vital part of the Saint Michael's experience, 4 students have summer internships in Madrid, and 15 students have summer internships in Asia, 4 in South Korea and 11 in Vietnam, sponsored by the Freeman Foundation and our own Center for Global Engagement. Center director Jeff Ayres recently visited the Asian sites and reports that all the students are thriving, gaining meaningful and life-changing work experience. And 42 students participated in four faculty-led study trips this May and June to Denmark, Wales, Ireland, and Quebec City. These international activities have finally bounced back from the pandemic, now stronger than ever.

Back for a second summer is the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, with student musicians from high school to college-age filling the residence halls, classrooms, and cafeteria with their music. The public is invited to the concerts they provide most evenings at the Elley-Long Music Center. This is a perfect group for Saint Michael's to host in the summer, making great use of our facilities and fulfilling our educational mission. Also contributing to the summer arts scene is the Saint Michael's Playhouse, now in its 76<sup>th</sup> season of providing high-quality professional theatre to Vermont residents and summer visitors.

The hallways are also busy with faculty and staff gearing up for the coming academic year. Our new interim President Lewis Thayne has arrived and is already making his mark, meeting with various constituencies around campus. New faculty in Digital Marketing, Education, Accounting, Philosophy, and English are starting to arrive, and the staff of the Purposeful Learning Office is getting ready to welcome the new students in August, along with all those returning, with a new emphasis this year on leadership development and programming for sophomores. Purposeful Learning will be hosting a 2-day leadership institute during the week before school starts for student leaders from many areas across campus. Participating students will have the opportunity to follow this up with an optional 2-credit fall class led by Todd Wright, going into greater depth on

leadership theory as well as reflection on their practice as actual leaders in campus organizations during the semester. Edmundite Fellow Jolivette Anderson-Douning is preparing a fall dual-enrollment offering at Winooski High School for college credit in African-American History, the first such joint venture between the two neighboring institutions. These are just some of the exciting academic initiatives being planned and implemented during the summer of 2023!

Jeffrey A. Trumbower, VPAA

---



## Thank you for supporting this year's June Challenge!

We here at Saint Michael's College would like to thank everyone for their support of this year's June Challenge. Together, we raised over \$250,000 in support of the Saint Michael's Fund, student scholarships, and so much more. We're so grateful to all of our Purple Knights who gave—keep in touch with us to see how your donation supports this generation of Purple Knights! For more information on ways to get involved, [visit our website](#).

[Check out our June Challenge Purple Knight Pride TikTok/Reel!](#)



## Student summer research trio striving to advance diabetes therapy in Cheray Hall lab

This summer in Cheray Science Hall, you will find Professor Christopher Dieni and his students are advancing therapeutic approaches that might help diabetics significantly in the long term. Having recently lost her grandfather to diabetic complications, Jamie Hearn '26 of Charlotte, NC, feels the importance of her College-funded summer research work, given also that her dad struggles with symptoms of the condition too. Fellow summer research students, Jack Macdonald '25 and Jack Conroy '24 are also working with

Hearn this summer. Macdonald is a biochemistry major from Baraboo, WI, with minors in chemistry and neuroscience and a career interest in psychopharmacology, while Conroy, an aspiring medical school student from Dorchester, MA, is a biology major with a chemistry minor. Hearn '26 and

Conroy '24 are on the Saint Michael's Rescue squad. Mentoring all of them has been Professor Dieni, a friendly, energetic and clear-spoken biochemist from Canada nearing the end of his first year on the St. Mike's faculty while he pursues an abiding research focus on insulin resistance and sensitivity. Dieni said that he, too, became interested in the field because of the diabetes that has affected several generations of his family.

[Read the full story on Professor Dieni's summer research with his students.](#)

## Alumni Spotlight: Ashley DeLeon '23 receiving international recognition for her media creation prowess

After Commencement, Ashley DeLeon '23, a Bronx, NY, native, returned home to the greater New York City area and jumped right into what she calls "lots of exciting stuff." "I've received recognition at seven different international film festivals to date and have a lot more to hear back from since this is just the first handful I've applied to," she said. DeLeon shared a roundup of "where I'm at right now": "In April, I heard back from the first festival, The Emerging Lens Film Festival, which is a Canadian Screen Awards qualifying festival. This is for my film *The Silent Enemy: You Are What You Can't Eat*. When a film is selected for a qualifying festival, it gives the film automatic eligibility [for bigger festivals]. Therefore, my film is now eligible for the Canadian Screen Awards, and I can submit it to the Canadian Screen Awards in their next application cycle. This is Canada's equivalent of the Academy Awards, which is pretty exciting. The film was screened in Halifax, Canada, on April 21." DeLeon disclosed that she also currently is in competition for the Student Academy Awards, but "can't release specific details about my competition status due to their publicity guidelines." Congratulations, Ashley! We can't wait to see what else is in store!



[Read more about Ashley DeLeon '23 and her budding film and media career.](#)

## SMC Connect is waiting for you!

Have you joined the [SMC Connect](#) community yet? SMC Connect is an online tool built for members of the Saint Michael's College community to create



meaningful Connect/ions with one another. SMC Connect/ions include mentorship, networking, socializing, and more. Unlike other community platforms, you do not need to ask to connect before initiating contact. SMC Connect users are looking to hear from you! Sign up and join any of the 30+ communities to engage with other members based on geography, industry, or shared experiences.

We've also added 3 new communities to encourage more SMC Connect/ions, both personally and professionally:

- 1) Class notes: Got married? Had a baby? Recently promoted? Share life updates with classmates and the entire SMC Community.
- 2) SMC Memories: Reunion coming up? Stumbled across a great old picture or news clipping? Reminiscing and want to share a story? Share photos and anecdotes here.
- 3) SMC Happenings: Read highlights of SMC news stories. Learn about campus updates. Check out upcoming events.

Make SMC Connect a weekly or daily destination to get the most of out your SMC Connect/ions. Access SMC Connect on [your desktop](#) or download the Wisr app and log in to access SMC Connect on your mobile device.

## **Chamber Festival is back for a third year, bringing abundant talent, music to campus**



The College is pleased to welcome back to campus this summer for a third year the faculty and students of the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, June 25 through July 23! Welcome sights and sounds for St. Mike's community members in coming weeks will be students carrying their instruments from place to place, and anyone roaming campus buildings might hear beautiful music from practice sessions in many rooms. Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival brings together young string musicians from around the U.S. and several other countries with professional string teachers from many conservatories and universities, to work together for a month in beautiful Vermont. Festival concerts during late June and most of July offer a rich assortment of chamber music experiences to audience members at campus sites such as the McCarthy Arts Center and Elley-Long Music Center on North Campus.

[See the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival website for upcoming events.](#)



## Simonyi and Kim present in Chicago at educator event

On June 24, professors Stacy Simonyi and Soo Joung Kim of the Saint Michael's education faculty presented a session for this year's American Library Association National Conference in Chicago, IL. The session, entitled "Supporting Young Children's Social and Emotional Development with Children's Literature" drew an

audience of over one hundred public, school, and academic librarians wanting to learn about ways to incorporate social and emotional learning into their practices of working with children aged 3-5 years old.

## Rochester (NY) Democrat & Chronicle: Weiss '23 Overcomes Medical Challenges to Reach Tennis Stardom



Josh Weiss '23 was recently featured by reporter Marquel Slaughter in his hometown newspaper earlier this week. He spoke about his Saint Michael's tennis career, his celiac diagnosis, and his recent acceptance into the University of Georgia's Integrated Life Sciences program. Weiss carried a 3.92 GPA at Saint Michael's, where he was a biology and organic chemistry teaching assistant. He even performed NASA-funded research, participated in two CRISPR-Cas9 research projects funded by the National Science Foundation, and won the Roger F. Keleher '15 Award as the top male scholar-athlete in the graduating class. Way to go, Josh!

[Read the full story on Josh Weiss '23 as first published in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.](#)



## Saint Michael's Playhouse is open for the season!

The Saint Michael's Playhouse 2023 season's first show, *Almost Heaven*, following the life and times of American musical legend John Denver, opened on June 28, running until July 8. About the show from the Playhouse website: "From growing up in a military family to his emergence on the 1960s folk scene, the climb to 1970s superstardom and his later career of the 1980s and 1990s, John

Denver's story is brought to life in this area premiere through his countless hits including 'Take Me Home, Country Roads,' 'Rocky Mountain High,' 'Annie's Song,' and 'Sunshine on My Shoulders.' *Almost Heaven* has become one of the top shows in the 2023 musical theater world, delighting fans with this one-of-a-kind show." Upcoming shows include the "zany, magical and charming" small-town tale of *Popcorn Falls*, which opens July 12 and runs through July 22; and a "warm-hearted and delightful comedy," *Over the River and Through the Woods*, about the power of love across generations, running from July 26 through August 5.

[See the whole Playhouse summer schedule.](#)

*Please keep your thoughts and prayers with the Paprin family, who lost their Purple Knight, Sammy, in a tragic accident this past week.*

---

## Upcoming Alumni Events

In addition to the events highlighted below, we have plans in the works in a city near you! 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).

**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](#). [A room block is available at Wingate by Wyndham Lake George](#). [RSVP today!](#)

**August 3rd:** Saint Michael's night at the Yankees! Watch the New York Yankees go up against the Houston Astros at Yankee Stadium. Tickets: \$65/person. This cost includes seating in Section 334 and access to the Budweiser Party Deck, a shaded standalone bar area where we will gather prior to first pitch at 7:15pm. Enjoy draft beer, hot dogs, pretzels and soft drinks starting at 5:30pm at Yankee Stadium as part of this all-inclusive pre-game menu! [RSVP today!](#)

**August 13th:** Saint Michael's at the Boston Red Sox! Watch the Red Sox go up against the Detroit Tigers. Seats are in the right field grandstand, section 3. Tickets are \$48/person. First pitch is at 12:05pm. [RSVP today!](#)

**August 16th:** D.C. folks, this one's for you! Saint Michael's night at the Washington Nationals! The first pitch is at 7:05pm. Tickets are \$37/person. [RSVP today!](#)

**August 19th:** Saint Michael's night at Hartford Athletic! CT Purple Knights, join us for a night at the soccer field cheering on the Hartford Athletic! Tickets are

\$45/person. This cost includes seating in the Goal Zone, which is an exciting field-level area right on top of the action! Enjoy an all-inclusive pre-game BBQ buffet at 5pm as part of your ticket purchase. [RSVP today!](#)

---



[Update Contact Info](#)



[Submit a Class Note](#)



[Make a Gift](#)



[Volunteer](#)

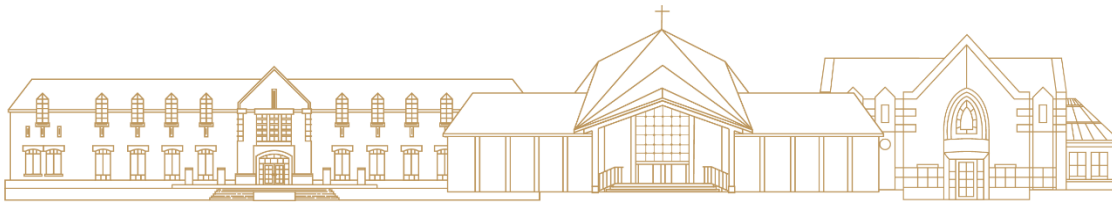


[Read the Magazine](#)



[Subscribe to This Week](#)

*Follow us on social, including our own SMC Connect platform:*



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Saint Michael's College](#)

One Winooski Park Colchester, VT 05439