



SAINT MICHAEL'S
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June 2023 eNews

Happy summer, SMC!



Check out the Reunion 2023 recap video created by Patrick Bohan, Director of the Media Creation Studio.

Dear Saint Michael's community,

As I reflect on my time at One Winooski Park, my mind wanders to the date of September 22nd, 2018. That historic Saturday afternoon, a day filled with joy, hope, and promise, was my official welcome to the Saint Michael's community, and the energy of Inauguration Day has driven me over my tenure as the President of the College. In my five years here, I have been privileged to meet

many alumni and to witness firsthand your enormous dedication to the College. I have been so impressed to see the friendships that have endured for decades, and it has been a true highlight of my time here to meet so many of you in person at events like last week's Reunion. I was grateful to celebrate with you all here on campus.

Your financial support has enabled us to provide scholarships to students and to create new programs that have helped us to recruit students. I am very pleased to see a sizeable increase in our new student enrollments for next year. As the fiscal year comes to a close on June 30th, as well as my time as President, I encourage you all to consider making an annual gift to the College to support future generations of Purple Knights as they *Do Well and Do Good*. In these challenging times for higher education, alumni support is more crucial than ever. Your support takes many different forms, from financial support, to mentoring students, to helping us recruit future Purple Knights. I thank you for all that you have done in the past, and I urge you to continue to provide strong support to the College we all love.

In closing, I want to thank you all for the warm welcome into the Saint Michael's community. From the first days on campus in 2018, to the humbling yearbook dedication from the Class of 2023, I have appreciated the hospitality, kindness, and generous spirit I have found here in Vermont. Wherever my next chapter takes me, I will always remain a proud Purple Knight.

Sincerely yours,

D. E. Lorraine Sterritt
President of Saint Michael's College

Saint Michael's Reunion 2023: Making Memories, Having Fun

Reunion 2023 saw nearly 1,000 alumni return to One Winooski Park for a glorious weekend of celebration! From June 2nd – 4th, all classes ending in 3s and 8s

gathered, connected, and reminisced on campus and throughout Burlington and Winooski. It was a special celebration for the Class of 1973, who came home after 50 years and were inducted as Golden Knights on Friday evening. The P-Knight party on Saturday hosted over 600 attendees on the 300s field, enjoying food trucks, lawn games, axe throwing, and a stand-out performance from the band Purple, with frontman and alumnus Craig Mitchell '93 bringing down the



house! The fun continued through the night as alumni packed into the townhouses and enjoyed chicken patties served by RDs at the late-night grill. The weekend closed out with a delicious farewell breakfast and Mass sending alumni on their way with full bellies and hearts. It was evident all weekend that our alumni *Do Well and Do Good*, continuing to cherish their connection to St. Mike's and to one another. Thank you to everyone who came and celebrated with us— the countdown to Reunion 2024 begins now!

[Watch the Reunion 2023 recap video by Pat Bohan, Media Creation Studio Director.](#)

[Scroll through the Reunion 2023 Flickr gallery.](#)

[See photos from the 5th Purple Knights Golf Classic.](#)



Lewis Thayne to serve as interim president, set to start work in June

Saint Michael's College trustees recently selected Lewis Thayne, a veteran college leader with proven strengths in fundraising, strategic planning, marketing, and enrollment, to serve as interim president. He will start this summer and serve until a formal search process leads to a permanent president sometime in early 2024. "I believe my experience is a good fit for Saint Michael's at this time," said Thayne, a former college president at Pennsylvania's Lebanon Valley

College who has a doctorate in comparative literature from Princeton University. "The interim role can be a very effective bridge for an institution," said Thayne, whose top priorities in that role are "first, to do no harm," and after that, to strengthen enrollment. "I've been given a charge by the trustees to focus on enrollment, to work with the cabinet and the leadership of the faculty on the strategic plan, as well as on financial sustainability which every college and university is working on right now," he said. Welcome to Saint Michael's, Dr. Thayne!

[Read the full profile on Dr. Lewis Thayne.](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Alumni of the Year 2023 include seven honorees, one Fr. Mike Cronogue Award for Service recipient



Each year at Reunion, the College recognizes notable alumni who have given considerable time and a great deal of effort toward the betterment of the College and its Alumni Association. This year's Alumni of the Year included Rev. Thomas F. X. Hoar, S.S.E. '73; Joseph Garrity '78, P'06, P'09; Michael Harvie '88, P'21; Ed Calnan '93; Marianne Strayton '98; and Drew Russo '03. For those less than ten years out, the College honors a Young Alumnus of the Year award, which was given to Niall Keane '18. The College also awarded the Rev. Michael P. Cronogue, S.S.E. Memorial Award for Service posthumously to Chris Lee '93, which was accepted by his widow, Katie. The Saint Michael's Alumni Association was proud to celebrate the accomplishments of these incredible alumni at Reunion 2023. Congratulations, all!

[Read more about this year's alumni award recipients.](#)



Tax-Wise Ways to Make Your Annual Gift

Pay it forward and help support today's students to do well and do good by [making a gift to Saint Michael's before June 30th](#).

Looking for tax-wise and convenient ways to give? Visit [Ways to Give](#) for more information about gifts of appreciated securities, giving through your DAF, from your IRA, online giving, mailing a check and more.

Staff in Purposeful Learning absorbing lessons as they go



The Office of Purposeful Learning is taking lessons from its first full year on campus to adjust course, increase efficiencies, and adopt intentional strategies to build on successes with clear direction. Pre-pandemic, close involvement from all St. Mike's community members in seeking and guiding students felt organic and natural, if more low-key and subtle. Yet in a quest to return to post-pandemic "normal," College leaders perceived the need for a high-profile program with more intentional

outreach to keep those life-changing personal human interactions, always the distinctive appeal at Saint Michael's, part of each student's experience. For Heidi St. Peter and her staff – student success advisors Vernita Weller, Lou DiMasi M'84, and Katie Barry '19 – the overarching goals of their office are to meet students where they are, identify needs, encourage engagement in the community, and be present as a resource and support space. "We wanted this office to be a space where they can come and relax, and connect with others," St. Peter said. So far, it's been mission accomplished.

[Read the full story on the first year of Purposeful Learning.](#)



MOVE volunteers back from Selma Missions, Ecospirituality Center

Lara Scott, director of the MOVE volunteer service arm of Edmundite Campus Ministry on campus, reports: "Our last two service trips of the year returned on Saturday, May 27. We were in Selma, Alabama, with the Edmundite Southern Missions, and Benson, Vermont, with Mercy Ecospirituality Center for these last two and, again, the trips were powerful and meaningful in many ways." MOVE also sent students on service trips to various locations around the region and U.S. over winter and spring breaks. The five students and two MOVE staff leaders in Selma recently helped prepare and deliver food along with other service at the Missions, founded and run by the Society of St. Edmund. The group of four students and two staff in Benson helped with planting and other tasks at the Ecospirituality Center.

[Read the full story on the recent MOVE service trips.](#)

Ten student-athletes earn College Sports Communicators Academic All-District At-Large

Ten Saint Michael's College student-athletes qualified for College Sports Communicators (CSC) NCAA Division II Academic All-District At-Large honors this May. A College-high four Alpine skiers earned nods, as May graduate Berty Olsen, rising senior Simen Strand, and rising juniors Margrethe Frøland and Eirik Kveno were all recognized. Men's ice hockey rising senior Marshall Murphy and rising junior Case Kantgias, Nordic skiing rising senior Lily Sabol and rising junior Izzy Quam, women's ice hockey May graduate Maeghan Kennard, and men's lacrosse rising junior Sebastian Simonson rounded out the



Saint Michael's honorees. College Sports Communicators, formerly known as College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), moved to a qualification system for All-District accolades this year, with major contributors toting at least a 3.50 cumulative grade-point average by their sophomore seasons eligible. CSC sponsors Academic All-America programs for baseball, basketball, cross country/track & field, football, soccer, softball, swimming & diving and women's volleyball, while 14 more are grouped into the At-Large category, including field hockey, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, skiing and tennis, all of which are offered at Saint Michael's College.

[Read the full story on our spectacular student-athletes.](#)



Academic study trips offer fun, learning, and adventure

Faculty-led intensive academic study trips are returning, after memorable experiences of several days to weeks for Saint Michael's students. They studied coastal biology in Ireland (May 12 – 27, with biology faculty mentors Declan McCabe, Paul Constantino '93 and emeritus Karen Talentino); another group studied cultural and political issues in Denmark (May 15 – 26, with faculty mentors Trish Siplon of political science and Paul Olsen of business), environmental policy and government in Wales (May 26 – June 9, with Jeffrey Ayres of political science and Laura Stroup of environmental science/studies, photo included), and language immersion in Quebec (May 14 – June 4, with Peter Vantine of French). Bon voyage, SMC!

Upcoming Alumni Events

In addition to the events highlighted below, we have plans in the works in Boston, Washington, D.C., NYC, Hartford, 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.

June 14th: Saint Michael's night at the Durham Bulls! North Carolina alumni, join us for a night at the ballpark cheering on the Bulls as they face off against the Charlotte Knights. First pitch is at 6:35pm, and a BBQ is included with every ticket. [RSVP today!](#)

June 29th: Saint Michael's night at the Vermont Lake Monsters! [RSVP today!](#)

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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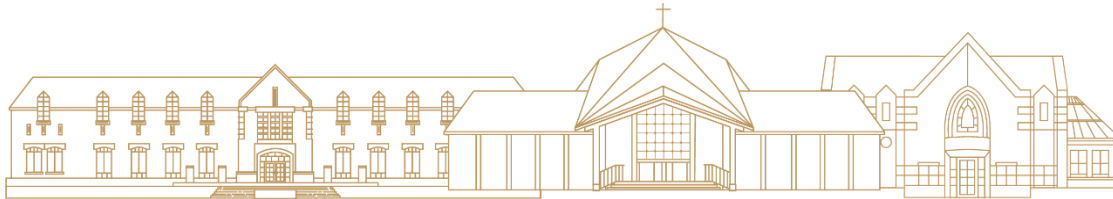


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