



SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE FOUNDED 1904

OFFICE OF ALUMNI & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

September 2023 eNews

Welcome home, Class of 2027!



Get a glimpse into the move-in day for the Class of 2027! Orientation leaders and community members were hard at work helping this new generation of Purple Knights get settled into their new home.

Dear Saint Michael's community,

Here on campus, we are celebrating a successful, joy-filled opening to the school year. I am deeply grateful for all on campus who planned and implemented such an exciting welcome for our new students and their families. The weather was wonderful too!

As is the tradition at Saint Michael's, our incredible Orientation Leaders used every ounce of their energy to welcome the first-year students and move them into their new homes in the residence halls. Many campus organizations spent the summer actively welcoming our new students, as well. Our Student Center for Diversity, Empowerment, and Community (DEC, formerly known as CMAS) hosted new students and their families for SOAR, our summer orientation academic retention program. Purposeful Learning welcomed our returning student leaders from Residence Life, Orientation, Student Government, DEC, MOVE, Adventure Sports, and Athletics to participate in the first annual Collaborative Student Leadership Development Seminar. Along with these students, our campus was quite lively with our preseason athletes and our Fire & Rescue student volunteers on campus. Additionally, Resident Directors and Resident Advisors were trained for their roles for the upcoming year. Campus, for sure, was already brimming with the Purple Knight pride by the time move-in day arrived.

The Saint Michael's spirit will be carried throughout the first week of classes and into the start of on-campus programming this fall. Early on, the Residence Life team will host our first Friday Knight Dry of the year, where our students come to enjoy many activities across campus. Wellness Wednesdays and Thoughtful Thursday programming has been planned for the semester. These programs highlight how students can learn about taking care of themselves, their physical and mental health. Indeed, campus life has returned in full force, bringing about a cheerful, engaging, and refreshing atmosphere that envelopes our SMC community.

Plans are well underway for major events at the end of the month; an Admissions Open House and the Student Activities Welcome Back Bash, as well as a celebration of Honorable Senator Patrick Leahy '61, his wife Marcelle Leahy and their contributions to our Center for the Environment. We hope to see you here for some of the wonderful events during [Alumni & Family Weekend](#) from September 22rd-24th. All in all, it's shaping up to be an exciting fall semester! I can't wait to see what else our incredible Saint Michael's community has in store.

With peace,

Dawn Ellinwood
Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students



Saint Michael's Alumni & Family Weekend: Join us September 22-24 on campus!

The countdown to Alumni & Family Weekend is on – just 12 days to go...and we can't wait to see you!

This weekend is a special time for students, families, alumni, and friends to come together to celebrate all that it means to be a part of the St. Mike's family. We've planned a weekend of fun for all. Check out the weekend's schedule at smcvt.edu/fallweekend, and book your

trip home to St. Mike's today!

St. Mike's Dragon Boat Team Beats out UVM in Opening Heat of Festival

The 2023 Lake Champlain Boat Festival took place on Sunday, August 6, and the Saint Michael's Dragon Boat team leader, Allison Close '01 of the campus mailroom, shared this report: "We had a beautiful



day to race. The Saint Michael's College Dragon Slayers team is made up of faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the College. Our first race of the day was against Champlain College and UVM. We did beat UVM by 2 seconds, but Champlain College was the overall winner of the race. In our second race we faced the NEFCU Navigators from New England Federal Credit Union. It was a close one, but unfortunately, we lost by four tenths of a second. The big winners for the day were CrossFit Burlington. The Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival is a fundraiser put on by Dragonheart Vermont. This year's festival will benefit not only Dragonheart Vermont but its pledge partner, the McClure Miller Respite house located in Colchester." If you would like to donate, please [click this link](#).



Save the Date for the seventh annual Purple Knight Challenge!

This year's Purple Knight Challenge will be held Sunday, September 24, through

Friday, September 29! The PK Challenge is an annual fundraising competition that benefits our 21 varsity athletic teams. It's not too early to make a contribution to your favorite program by visiting smcvt.edu/pkchallenge. All gifts made early will count towards the totals. Start spreading the word now to give your team a jump start. Thank you for your support of our incredible student-athletes and teams!

Off to Teach English in France, Recent Graduate Feels Both Excited and Confident

For Sydney Nelson '23, her later high school years while growing up in Stillwater, Minnesota, pointed her toward Saint Michael's College and her eventual French major with overseas study. Now a prestigious scholarship through the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) to teach English to French high school students outside Paris for the next seven months points her to another promising adventure — and thanks to her Saint Michael's experiences, Nelson knows she can handle it. An October 1st start date has given Nelson time to reflect on what she gained through her Saint Michael's global experiences. She is confident and flexible when encountering cross-cultural challenges, and ready to explore her new community in France. "I think having these opportunities to travel through St. Mike's, and learning more about the world and being more open to trying new things, has been very beneficial to me and made me feel very prepared and excited for TAPIF," said Nelson, who did a semester abroad in Grenoble, France, her junior year. A few weeks after returning, she headed to an extended summer internship in Seoul, South Korea, through a Freeman Foundation grant — another prestigious competitive honor that she learned about through the College's Center for Global Engagement (CGE).



[Read full story on Sydney Nelson and TAPIF>>](#)



Popular LinkedIn to Serve as Home to SMC Alumni Connections

We want to express our gratitude to those alumni who have participated in the SMC Connect platform and communities. Unfortunately, SMC Connect has not garnered enough interest among all members of the St. Mike's family and we have made the decision to discontinue it effective December 31, 2023. Instead, we strongly encourage everyone to join our LinkedIn group - [Saint Michael's College Alumni Connections](#) if you haven't already. This group will be expanded to include students as well as alumni. LinkedIn is a platform that most people habitually use and we believe that this shift will lead to more connections and better communication for all. Later this year, we will be sending an email to all SMC Connect members to ensure everyone is aware of this transition. We appreciate your support and eagerly anticipate seeing you on LinkedIn!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out directly to our Director of Alumni & Family Engagement, Stephanie Snell (ssnell2@smcvt.edu or 802-654-2057).

The Kelley Alpine and Nordic Ski Center Groundbreaking Ceremony!

Saint Michael's College is proud to announce plans for a dedicated ski center, designed to meet the unique demands of our Alpine and Nordic ski teams. With a lead investment from Tom Kelley '69 and committed support from alumni, parents and the local community, the Ski Center will have a lasting and positive impact on some of Saint Michael's best and most promising athletes, now and far into the future. Join us on 9/23 at 1:00 PM at Senior Hall to celebrate this milestone in Purple Knight history.

To [learn more](#).





Peter Harrigan '83 Makes Barbie Movie a Special Occasion

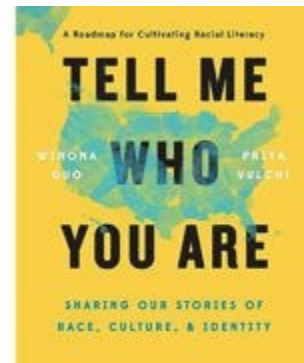
Peter Harrigan '83 of the Saint Michael's Fine Arts/Theatre faculty has long been known for his impressive collection of Barbie dolls and the dioramas he creates using them. Naturally, Peter was excited to attend the popular new Barbie movie when it came to area theaters recently, and he posted on social media about how

he made it a special occasion: “What a blast seeing #barbiethemovie tonight with Stan Baker and Eva Sollberger @stuckinvermont from #sevendaysvt! The movie is funny, splashy, campy, subversive, and poignant! I had been feeling a bit of #fomo because many friends saw the movie in large cities with a lot more hoopla. But we made our own fun by bringing a little diorama (which other patrons photographed), giving the theater employees heart-shaped glasses, and cheering on a fabulous #pink crew in attendance. A great night!”

[Watch Stuck in Vermont episode featuring Peter>>](#)

First-Year Seminar Common Text: A Conversation with Co-Authors Guo & Vulchi

On Wednesday, August 30, co-authors Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi gave a talk to a packed McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall about their book, **Tell Me Who You Are**, the first-year seminar common text for the current academic year. The talk was followed by a lively question and answer session.



In **Tell Me Who You Are** (2019), co-authors Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi recount their experiences talking to people from all walks of life about race and identity on a cross-country tour of America. Spurred by the realization that they had nearly completed high school without hearing any substantive discussion about racism in school, the two young women deferred college admission for a year to collect first-person accounts of how racism plays out in this country every day—and often in unexpected ways.

[Read more](#) about the First Year Seminar book.



Looking for a New Job? Join the Saint Michael's College Institutional Advancement Team!

Saint Michael's College is now hiring an Assistant Director for Alumni and Family Engagement. Whether you're in Vermont or looking to come back home, we invite all

Purple Knights to apply for this position, which will work closely with our extensive network of alumni and families to help plan and organize a variety of events, class reunions and Alumni and Family Weekend. It is never to late to come back to St. Mike's. [Apply today!](#)

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.

September 12th: Given the number of deaths our campus community has experienced in recent months, Edmundite Campus Ministry will be offering a Prayer Service to remember our beloved deceased on Tuesday evening, September 12th at 7:00 pm in front of the College Chapel. Everyone is wanted and welcome, including area alumni and friends. Join us as we remember our deceased loved ones and seek healing for our community.

September 16th: Join the St. Mike's NYC Club for a river cruise with [North River Lobster Company](#) on Saturday, September 16th, from 2:30-4:30 pm. Tickets are \$80 per person and include unlimited beer, wine, soda and juice, a 2-hour designated area on the boat, 1-hour river cruise (3:00 pm departure) and ample appetizers. All are welcome to enjoy the last days of summer as we cruise into fall. [Limited tickets available. RSVP deadline is 9/11/23. Get yours today!](#)

September 21st: Hosted by one of the longest independent Saint Michael's alumni groups, the CT Valley Lunch Bunch is having its 71st annual BBQ at TPC River Highlands Golf Club. The lunch will take place from 12:30-4:30 pm and will be attended by special SMC guests including St. Mike's Athletic Director Chris Kenny '86, P'18, Men's and Women's Basketball Coaches, Trustees Patricia Casey and Mark Dalton '73, and Robert Minetti '69. This event is \$55/person, includes BBQ lunch and a cash bar, and is not sponsored by the College. For more information, email Andy McElroy '71 at andymcelroyjr@gmail.com or Kevin Slane '65 at kjslane@hotmail.com.

September 22nd-24th: Save the date for Alumni & Family Weekend 2023! Visit smcvt.edu/fallweekend for more information about the schedule and accommodations.

December 19th: Save the date for St. Mike's night at the Bruins! More info to come.

May 31st-June 2nd: Save the date for Reunion 2024! Mark your calendars and start preparing for the big weekend. We are celebrating classes that end in 4s and 9s this time around! More information to come. Want to get involved with your Class Reunion Committee? Email events@smcvt.edu.



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