



SAINT MICHAEL'S
COLLEGE FOUNDED
1904

OFFICE OF ALUMNI & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

December 2023 eNews

All I Want for Christmas is...Alumni eNews!



The first snowfall on campus this year.

Dear Saint Michael's Community,

Do you remember what sparked your career?

For me, it was a post-college volunteer trip to Germany. Not long after the Berlin Wall came down, I found myself helping to rebuild an environmental laboratory in the rural countryside near Cottbus, a city in former East Germany. This was the happy accident that introduced me to public service as a profession. I would go on to earn a Masters in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School and head two venerable nonprofits.

Yet it took me a while to get there. After college I waitressed, sold furniture and delivered pizzas. Flailing around professionally in my mid-twenties, I fretted that my sophomore year internship with a property development firm might have been the pinnacle of my career. A good dollop of career counseling could have saved me a lot of income uncertainty, housing instability and confusion.

That's one reason I am passionate about joining the [Henry "Bud" Boucher Jr. '69 Career Education Center](#) to expand its services and promote our graduates to the professional community. Center Director Ingrid Peterson and her team do outstanding work in reaching students and helping them understand and embrace the power of their own potential, which enables graduates to envision the future (or futures!) they want. Our Career Coaches get to know students individually right where they are and empower them with greater self-knowledge, appealing career opportunities, and the skills and pathways to navigate to where they want to go. There are internship opportunities, paid job exploration opportunities, resume coaching, mock interviews and more.

And as Executive Director, I get to tout its successes – and help magnify them for future students and alumni!

- Did you know that six months after graduation, 97% of St. Mike's students are employed?
- Or that more than half of graduating Purple Knights surveyed report using the Boucher Center for personalized career coaching, in an era when data suggests that fewer than 20% of college students nationwide seek out such help?

As a former St. Mike's adjunct professor of Business - and someone who has worked alongside many St. Mike's grads in Vermont over the years - I have long admired the unusually valuable qualities Purple Knights tend to bring into their workplaces. They're strong thinkers and hard workers with a deep sense of community and teamwork. There's often a strong ethical framework. Many routinely go out of their way to make their companies and our communities better places.

As an alum, you can play a special role in helping to bridge the unknown territory for our students between college's end and the working world. Anytime you have jobs or internships available for students or alumni, skills

and insight you can contribute as a mentor, and/or the ability to sponsor a student's career exploration through an unpaid internship, please reach out to me and our team at the Boucher Center. Together we can open doors to new worlds for each emerging generation of Purple Knights.

Kaomi Joy Taylor, MPA

Executive Director

Henry "Bud" Boucher '69 Career Education Center



Dr. Richard Plumb Warmly Welcomed by Saint Michael's Community

Saint Michael's 18th president, [Dr. Richard Plumb](#), visited campus on November 15th and 16th to meet with community members and join in a welcome and reception held in his honor. Plumb will officially begin

the job on January 1, 2024, taking the reins from Interim President Lewis Thayne who has served since June. Plumb said he feels extremely welcomed by members of the campus community and looks forward to working together to chart a vision for the College's future.

[Watch the video of his time on campus.](#)

Alumni Holiday Events Off to a Great Start

Purple Knights are coming together to enjoy the holiday season at various regional SMC club gatherings this month. We're welcoming new additions including the SMC Club of New Jersey, the SMC North of Boston Club, the SMC Club of the South Shore MA, and the SMC Club of Western MA.

(New Jersey and North of Boston club featured left to right)



[Register for an event near you!](#)



Saint Michael's No. 1 in NCAA Division II Academic Success Rate for Third Year Straight

Saint Michael's College led NCAA Division II in student-athlete graduation rate for the third straight year in 2023, and for the sixth time

in 14 years, as data released by the NCAA on Wednesday revealed the College's student-athletes achieved an Academic Success Rate (ASR) of 99% for the most recent cycle.

[Read more about the success.](#)

Making the Most of the Vermont Winter

Winters in Vermont can be long, but there's no reason they can't be fun, too. [The Adventure Sports Center](#) offers a number of different activities throughout the winter.



"The Learn to Ski and Snowboard program is designed for students that have never, or almost never, skied or snowboarded," said Eben Widlund, director of the Adventure Sports Center. The program offers two full days of lessons, including rentals and transportation. If students attend both lessons, they get a premium Sugarbush pass, which is typically \$200, Widlund explained. After the lessons, they can continue to ski or snowboard and there is free transportation to the mountain almost every weekend.

For more experienced skiers and snowboarders, the Adventure Sports Center offers passes to Sugarbush. The value pass is \$115 and gets a student unlimited access to Mt. Ellen and access to Lincoln Peak mid-week. That cost is less than a regular day pass would be. The premium pass is \$200 and gets unlimited access to Mt. Ellen and Lincoln Peak.

[Read more about the program.](#)



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 the end of the calendar year.](#)

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

Zensource Co-Founder and St. Mike's Alum Jon Stewart Gives Talk on Marketing

On November 9, students and faculty gathered in the Roy Room to attend "From Ryan Hall to the Frontier of Marketing Technology" to listen to speaker Jon Stewart '08. Stewart cofounded ZenSource, an enterprise level software company. He said ZenSource plans to offer internships in 2024, and interested students can reach him directly.

[Read more about the event.](#)



Professor Krista Billingsley Shares Stories of Resilience in Nepal

Krista Billingsley, Director of Criminology and Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Criminology, presented recently as part of the Social Science seminar series. Billingsley conducted field work in Nepal over 14 months, primarily in

2016. After she became a professor at Saint Michael's, she helped create a follow-up collaborative film project in Nepal that was focused on victim-led truth-telling.

[Read more about the event.](#)

Alumni Career Networking Night Sees Record Attendance

Some were polished, some were shy, and some strode right up and outstretched hands to shake. This month's Alumni Career Networking Night in Dion attracted nearly 150 people, including 73 students who gained professional skills, confidence, and valuable workplace connections at the dynamic event. Boucher Career Education staffers Ingrid Peterson, Joe Speidel and Kaomi Taylor were on hand to facilitate connections, talk followup— and in Ingrid's case, hug dozens of alumni who she'd helped launch on their pathways to success. Kudos to the Saint Michael's Alumni Board who coordinated the event with our Director of Alumni Engagement, Stephanie Snell. Now we start preparing for the spring Alumni Career Symposium. Keep an eye on our [Alumni Events Calendar](#) for more information!



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Gingerbread Contest Dedicated to Father Mike Cronogue Creates Community Spirit

Twelve teams of first-year students gathered in the Purposeful Learning Office to compete in the annual "Father Mike Cronogue First-Year Gingerbread

Contest." The packed room vacillated between erupting laughter and laser-focused concentration as students molded snow people out of Rice Krispies Treats, dripped icicle frosting from their gingerbread roofs and dotted walkways with rainbow gum drops.

[Read more on the event here.](#)

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.

December 14th: Don't miss the annual holiday social for the SMC Club of New York City. [Sign up today](#) for a festive gathering and an opportunity to give back to the Covenant House!

March 22nd: Join us for our annual Career Symposium! Current Saint Michael's students will be able to attend panel presentations and network with alumni across industries to get a head start on their postgrad career. If you're interested in attending, participating, or being a part of the planning process, please reach out to events@smcvt.edu.

Early January: The Presidential Committee on the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Convocation invites you to join the SMC community for the 32nd annual MLK Jr. birthday celebration and week of Convocation on January 15th. The 2024 event will consist of many presenters and activities for the entire community. Read more on the [event schedule here](#).

Jan 6th: Start the New Year off right! Join Andy McElroy '77 and friends after the SMC Men's Basketball game @ Southern Connecticut State! The get

together will take place at Delaney's Restaurant & Tap Room! [Sign up today](#) to reserve your spot!

May 31st - June 2nd: Save the date for Reunion 2024! We will be celebrating all class years that end in 4s and 9s, but as always, all are welcome! Bookmark smcvt.edu/reunion for forthcoming information about the weekend. Interested in serving on your class committee? Email events@smcvt.edu.

The Office of Alumni and Family Engagement will be closed for the holidays from 12/22 - 12/31. Thank you and we wish you a wonderful holiday season.



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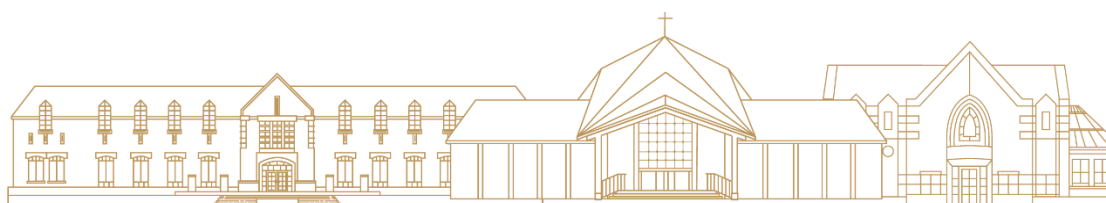


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One Winooski Park Colchester, VT 05439

