



SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE FOUNDED 1904

OFFICE OF ALUMNI & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

November 2023 eNews

Turning a New Leaf



Current students gathering in the Teaching Gardens

Dear Purple Knights,

It hardly seems possible that I've been a part of the Saint Michael's campus community for over 25 years, as an undergraduate, a graduate student and as an employee for more than two decades. No one, including me, imagined I'd be



here for so long, but anyone who knows me understands that my time here has always been more than just a job, it's been a vocation. It's bittersweet to share that I'm stepping down from my position as Executive Director of Institutional Advancement to take on a new role in a different industry. This change will afford me more time for my family, including my husband and our two daughters who are 10 and 8 and are the light of my life. This decision is for them.

My departure is somewhat ill-timed, as it coincides with the announcement of a new president, which is an exciting and joyous time for our entire community. I was honored to be a member of the search committee that vetted a strong applicant pool and helped to bring Dr.

Richard Plumb to campus. President Plumb inspired those he met with his numerous accomplishments, innovative ideas, and positive outlook for our future. I'll always be grateful to have been part of such an important search that will benefit this place I've called home for so many years.

I was a first-generation student when I arrived in the fall of 1995. I only knew I wanted to major in journalism and play softball, and I did both – and much more. Just like countless other alums, I met some of the most amazing people who are still my closest friends and mentors to this day. Moving from the Athletic Department to Institutional Advancement in 2003 seemed like a giant leap at first, but it wasn't long before I realized I had found my place. Making friends for St. Mike's by planning events and working with volunteers was a natural fit, and I'm proud of the work my team and I have done. Moving up to Executive Director made good sense, and I've been able to leverage my many relationships into fundraising success. I'll greatly miss my colleagues, both in IA and across

campus, as well as the thousands of alumni I've met and worked with over the years. You've enriched my life in so many ways.

Before I sign off, a couple of things: 1) Believe in St. Mike's. There are great things happening here every day and lives are transformed for the better. I see it daily. 2) Support St. Mike's in whatever way you can. The College needs our alumni now more than ever. 3) As you gather with your SMC friends, take a minute to recognize the place that brought you together and changed the course of your lives. It's St. Mike's. It's home.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Reunion in June.

Warmest wishes,

Angie Armour '99 M'09
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement



Saint Michael's to Welcome 18th President in January

The Saint Michael's College Board of Trustees announced that Richard Plumb, Ph.D., will become the 18th president of the College. He will begin his new role in January 2024.

Dr. Plumb brings extensive institutional leadership experience, having most recently served as president of Saint Mary's College in California. Prior to that, Dr. Plumb served seven years as executive vice president and provost at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota and nine years as dean of the Seaver College of Science and Engineering at Loyola Marymount University. A first-generation college student, Dr. Plumb holds a bachelor's degree, master's degree and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Syracuse University.

"Saint Michael's prepares students to become catalysts for positive transformation on both local and global scales. I am looking forward to working closely with the Edmundites, Board, faculty, staff, and students on innovative ideas and initiatives that will provide the foundation for the College to thrive far into the future," said Dr. Plumb.

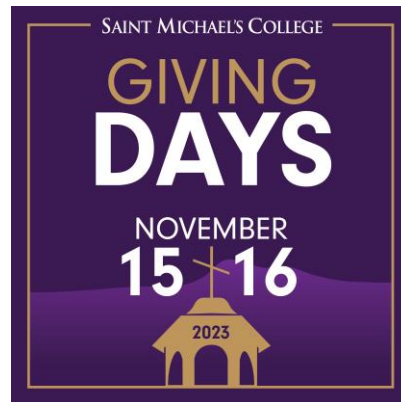
The College is planning a community introduction and welcome with Dr. Plumb in mid-November. More details about his visit will follow.

Read [more](#) on President Plumb.

Giving Days are November 15th & 16th!

This year, we're celebrating [Giving Days](#) on November 15th and 16th, and we hope you'll join us in [giving back](#) to the place that gave us all so much.

What does your Saint Michael's education mean to you? What was your favorite part of your college experience? Was it a particular class or a favorite professor? An athletic team or co-curricular activity? In this season of giving, we hope you will reflect on your time at St. Mike's and [make a gift](#) to any area of campus that has meaning to you. [You can make a gift early; all gifts made between now and Giving Days will count in the totals!](#) Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Honoring the Life of Don 'Pappy' Sutton

A "force of nature" – that's how Saint Michael's Fire and Rescue founder and former Chief Donald "Pappy" Sutton will be remembered by those who knew him, including alum and former Fire and Rescue member Pete Worrell '79.

Worrell delivered the eulogy at Sutton's funeral on Friday, Oct. 27 at the request of his former chief. Sutton passed away on Oct. 14 at the age of 95.

Worrell shared anecdotes of his years knowing Sutton – from having Sutton as a mentor while at Saint Michael's to becoming lifelong friends. He described Sutton as passionate, kind, creative, generous, and a constant champion for the underdog.

"He saw what the world could become, and he saw what we could become," Worrell said.

Before the funeral mass, Fire and Rescue members, alumni, Sutton's loved ones, and local public safety officials gathered at the Sutton Firehouse for a bell ceremony and final alarm for Sutton. After the Firefighters' Prayer was read and the bell struck nine times on the antique Saint Michael's firetruck, a final call for Don Sutton came through the scanner system.

Hearing no response from Sutton, the person making the scanner call declared that after 54 years of service, Sutton's duties were complete.

"Chief Sutton, Pappy, may you rest in peace," the person on the scanner said.

Read the obituary [here](#).

Business Leaders Share Fundamentals to Successful Organizations

More than 50 students and faculty gathered on a recent evening to attend a panel discussion, "The ABCs of ESG."

ESG is an acronym for environmental, social, and governance, an approach that is becoming more prevalent in business throughout the country.

The event on Oct. 3 included a panel consisting of Gary Levante '09, Vice President and Corporate Social Responsibility Officer at Berkshire Bank Foundation; Noah Miller, Chief Advisory Officer and head of ESG Advisory Services at Rho Impact; and Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak. Given their different backgrounds, the panelists were able to provide broad information about ESG from a wide range of perspectives.

Read more [here](#).



A Look Into the Life of a Fulbright Scholar in Mexico

It has been nearly four months since recent graduate Aisha Navarrete '23 departed for the adventure of a lifetime as a Fulbright scholar in Mexico. Saint Michael's College was honored to have sent three Fulbright scholars around the world, and Navarrete worked hard to secure her spot, majoring in international relations with a minor in environmental studies. She grew up biculturally in Mexico and Pawlet, Vermont, has been an intern for Migrant Justice, Inc., in Burlington, a board member for Burlington's Peace & Justice Center, an intern at the Vermont Democratic Party and for the Vermont State Department of Commerce. She was also selected to do environmental research abroad in Tanzania, where she lived on an island with five other inhabitants for an entire month without access to the outside world. Navarrete states, "as a first-generation college student and someone who grew up immersed in two different cultures, I feel very privileged and excited about all opportunities that I have been afforded through higher education."



Navarrete was placed in Zacapoaxtla, a small town in Puebla, Mexico, as an English teaching assistant at the Instituto tecnológico superior de Zacapoaxtla. For Navarrete, the best part has been "connecting to my roots and making memories that help to shape what I'd like to do in my future career." Her advice for anyone who is considering travel is: "Do it! There's nothing like traveling. It's not easy, but even in the lowest of times there is no part of me that wishes I hadn't come. Experiences like this truly help shape you, and there are few opportunities that allow you to engage so effortlessly with a community."

Read more about our current Purple Knight Fulbright recipients [here](#).



The Networking Event of the Season

Join the St. Mike's Alumni Board of Directors, local alumni and the team from the Boucher Career Education Center for a networking event with current students on Friday, November 10th from 4-6 pm. The event will be held in the Archway Lounge on the 3rd

floor of Dion. Show the power of the Purple Knight network and help students with career insights and advice, share employment and internship opportunities and help students prep for their post-college life. This is also a great time to network for yourself! Connect with other alumni about opportunities that can benefit you and your career journey too!

Register [here](#).

History Comes Alive on Campus: The Revolutionary War

The past came to life on Saint Michael's campus on Oct. 5 when a group of Revolutionary War re-enactors set up camp to help the college community time-travel to 250 years ago.

Alexandra Garrett, who is an Assistant Professor of History, was responsible for bringing the re-enactors to campus after seeing them perform at the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum where Garrett is a board member. The group was part of Benjamin Whitcomb's Independent Corps of Rangers, a non-profit corporation in Vermont comprised of volunteers who re-create a war camp unit that fought in the Revolutionary War as a part of the Continental Army in New England and New York.



Read more [here](#).

Veterans Day

Ahead of Veterans Day, the Saint Michael's College community expresses our utmost gratitude to all the Purple Knights who have served our country in the armed forces. They make Saint Michael's College proud, today and every day. Thank you, SMC veterans!



[To learn more about Veterans and Military Community Services here](#) or by reaching out to Ken O'Connell koconnell4@smcvt.edu.

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.

November 29th: Calling all New Jersey Purple Knights! Join local alumni to celebrate the holidays and kick off the first SMC Club of New Jersey event! Register [here](#).

November 29th: North of Boston alumni – save the date for a holiday gathering with the newly formed SMC North of Boston club. Event details and registration coming soon!

December 2nd: Local alumni! Join us on campus on Saturday, December 2nd for our annual Children’s Christmas Party from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in the Green Mountain Dining Room in Alliot. Children and grandchildren of alumni, faculty, and staff are invited to make seasonal crafts, eat holiday treats, and visit with special guests Santa and Mrs. Claus! [Register Here](#).

Early December: Attention all western Massachusetts-based alumni – save the date for a holiday gathering with the SMC club of Western MA in early December. Event details and registration coming soon!

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.

May 31st - June 2nd: Save the date for Reunion 2024 - Friday, May 31st - Sunday, June 2nd! 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.



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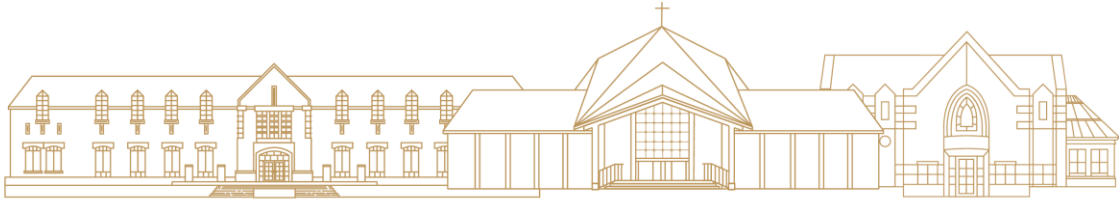


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