



OFFICE OF ALUMNI & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

April 2024 eNews

Hopping into Spring at St. Mike's!



Spring at St. Mike's brings MOVE Trips. This group of SMC MOVE Students went to New Orleans, Louisiana

(Back row) Catrina Gallagher '26, Carson O'Neil '23 (staff leader), Leeroy (New Orleans Mission - NOM - staff member), Duwap (NOM staff member), Izzy Stack '25, Dennis (NOM staff member); (Middle row) Vicky Castillo '20 (staff leader), Jarrett Sweet '25, Lauren Welch '25, Emma Gooley '23 (student leader), Callie Boisvert '27; (Front) Sergei (NOM staff member)



Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

This March has been an exciting time at Saint Michael's. We have had three Alpine skiers and one Nordic skier compete in the NCAA National Collegiate Championship in Steamboat Springs, CO. Our men's basketball team made it to the Sweet 16 NCAA Tournament, hosting the regionals in the Ross Sports Center to capacity home crowds. Fr. Marcel Rainville and Fr. Michael Carter directed the second LEAP Retreat of the year and our MOVE office offered four extended service trips this semester with two more scheduled in May. We concluded March with the glorious celebration of the Resurrection with two Masses in our Chapel on Easter Sunday morning. The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

One aspect of our Edmundite campus ministry that folks off campus might not be aware of is our utilization of St. Anne's Shrine, as a satellite facility for various programming. Each year we host many gatherings and retreats at the Shrine which has seven cabins on 32 acres of lakefront property on Isle La Motte, VT. The ministry of the Shrine was assigned to the Edmundites in 1904, the same year the College was founded. Campus ministry retreats, inter-faith gatherings, athletic team retreats, student life programming and faculty and staff retreats have all been held at the Shrine for the past several years. Alumni, parents and friends are always welcome to visit, particularly during the summer months. See <https://www.saintannesshrine.org/>.

Another aspect of our ministry I wish to draw attention to is our Liturgical Ministry Scholarship program. If you know of any prospective students with an

interest in singing or playing a musical instrument at our Sunday liturgies, please direct them to Jerome Monachino at jmonachino@smcvt.edu. The scholarship is by application for \$2,000 per year and is renewable. Click [here](#) for further information to share with prospective students and their families.

As we progress towards the end of the semester, please know of the prayers of the Edmundite Community for you and your loved ones. May the spring budding of nature remind you of the gift of life we celebrate each day and inspire you to volunteer in your local community during this National Volunteer Month. Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Fr. Brian Cummings, S.S.E.'86
Director of Edmundite Campus Ministry



Naples, Florida

While traveling for the College in Florida from 3/11 to 3/15, President Plumb met some of our most dedicated and loyal Saint Michael's alumni. He was honored by the warm welcome I received from all the alumni he had the pleasure of meeting. Thank you to Don Dion '76 and his wife, Cathy Dion, as well as Trustee George Keady '79 and his wife, Jackie Keady '81, for hosting

special events and welcoming President Plumb to the SMC family.

President Plumb and his wife Mary, also had the opportunity to present the Mont Saint Michel award to several alumni who have achieved giving milestones with the college: Tom Kelley '69, Dr. Ron Faille '65, Ed Mitchell '84, and former Trustee Larry Blanford. This giving society is named in honor of the famed abbey in Mont-Saint-Michel, France, for which The Society of Saint Edmund served as caretakers from 1867 to 1886. Just as the Edmundites served as caretakers of the abbey, Saint Michael's College considers members of the Society of Mont-Saint-Michel caretakers of the College. Thank you to Tom, Ron, Ed, and Larry for your generosity, and congratulations!



Burlington, Vermont

On March 27th, President Plumb met and spoke with local Purple Knights that attended the Presidential Reception reception at the Marriott Courtyard Burlington Harbor. Thank you to our event hosts, Trustees Rick Cote '89 and Jim Phalen '67 for a very special evening, and to the many that turned out and offered the President such a warm welcome.

Please join President Plumb in NYC on April 17th for our next Presidential reception hosted by Pam Batalis '85, Trustee Phil McGovern '80, and Trustee Brian Lacey '72 at the famed Hudson Yards. RSVP to Stephanie Snell at ssnell2@smcvt.edu or 802-654-2057.

[Click here to review the President's remarks.](#)



MOVE Trips in Full Swing

Each academic year dozens of students participate in [service trips](#) all over the country through Saint Michael's community service organization, MOVE (Mobilization of Volunteer Efforts). For the 2023-24 academic year, Saint Michael's offered six different week-long domestic trips. Each trip typically has room for six to 10 people. In January, MOVE visited Immokalee, Florida, Buffalo, New York, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Over the March spring break, a group traveled to Hartford, Connecticut. This May, two groups will travel to Benson, Vermont, and Selma, Alabama. In past years, groups have also visited Long Island.

National Volunteer Month Opportunities to Serve:

Join MOVE for any of the following community service opportunities during National Volunteer Month in April. Program leaders will be in touch with

volunteers the week of each program with details. Look for more details on events in **gold** in the Schedule of Events section.

[Read more on the event>](#)



Career Symposium Recap

In partnership with the Alumni and Family Engagement office and the Henry “Bud” Boucher, Jr. ’69 Career Education Center, the SMC Alumni Board of Directors (ABOD) had a standout year with the 2024 Career Symposium. The keynote fireside chat with Dan Sullivan ’87 was engaging and full of key career insights. Students then moved on to choose from seven possible panel topics of discussion. From tech trends to job market savvy, the panels had it all. But the real magic was the Alumni Networking Reception. Past and present students mingled, swapped stories, and built connections that will last a lifetime. We extend a special thank you to this year’s ABOD symposium leaders, Trevor Brown ’15



Join us on Social Media!

Looking for a place that has all the latest on St. Mike’s alumni? Yearning for witty videos featuring current students AND some familiar faces? How about weekly yearbook throwbacks to get excited about Reunion 2024? Well, @smcvtalumni on Instagram and Facebook is your place to be. Included on these pages are weekly posts about the latest events on campus, alumni event sign ups,

& Caitlyn Burke '14, for spearheading the event and making it a success! For more details on the event, including the keynote video and other event photos visit our [webpage](#).

and a new "Reu-Knighted" series where you can submit photos of recent meet-ups around the country (and world) and get featured on the page! Head on over to the pages and follow to stay in the loop with all things St. Mike's.

[Instagram>](#)

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Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow - Reunion 2024

Please join us Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2, 2024, for Reunion! If your class year ends in a 4 or a 9, it's your turn to be celebrated, but all alumni are welcome to join the party.

Registration opened on April 1st for paid reunion events! Get your tickets [here](#). Visit the [Reunion](#) page for details on accommodations, the weekend schedule, an online ticket link, and [making a gift](#) in support of the place that gave you so much.



A Whole Lotta Purple Knight Pride!

Thank you to all who participated in Purple & Gold Day this year. From campus to California, Purple Knights showcased their purple and gold pride in their local community and online! There is always time to show your PK Pride by using the hashtag #smcvtalumni or tagging @smcvtalumni on socials!



Connor Vezina '22

In the two years since graduating from St. Mike's, I have moved to Columbus, Ohio, to pursue a master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs. I am currently in my last semester of the program! In the last two years, I have met so many kind and knowledgeable people, presented research at a national conference, learned an immense amount inside and outside the classroom, and worked in two entirely different student affairs roles to narrow in on my

professional interests. Soon, I will begin a new role after graduation as a full-time Program Coordinator back in the Northeast!

My favorite class that I took in undergrad was with Dr. Katherine Kirby, which was titled "Radical Love, Liberation, and Justice." This class combined my love for Buddhism, meditation, and mindfulness with my academic majors of Psychology and Philosophy. Dr. Kirby's class inspired me academically, but also on a personal level, to be a kinder person to myself in all areas of my life, which I still hold on to today.

[Read more on Connor>](#)



A Historic Season Finish for St. Mike's Men's Basketball

Men's basketball capped a historic season with a loss in the NCAA Division II Sweet 16 on March 19, closing a run that saw the Purple Knights host their first regional championship in 64 years and advance to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2001. Capacity Ross Sports Center crowds were regular features of the

Purple Knights' five postseason games, and they rode that momentum as far as the NCAA Division II East Regional Championship title contest.

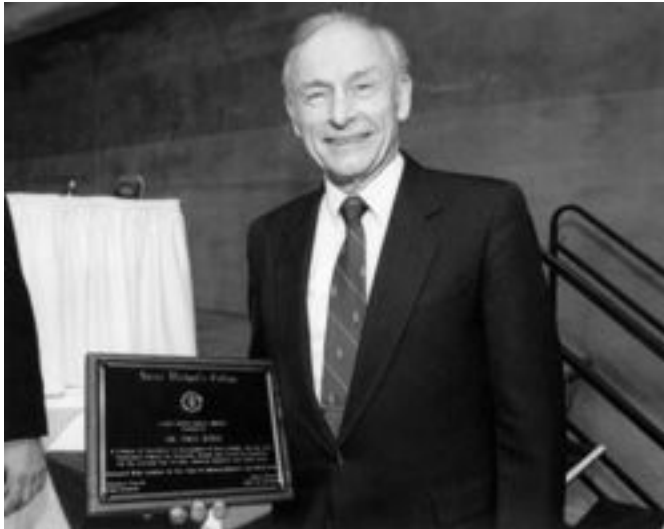
[To read the press release on the last game>](#)



Supporting Men's Basketball

Men's basketball alumni from the 1990s returned to campus the weekend of March 16th to cheer on the team in the NCAA Division II Eastern Regional conference games at Ross Sports Center. Left to right: Jason Curry '95, Mark Mulvey '97, Tim MacDonald '93, Paul Culpo '93, Dave Mandleur '95 and Fr. Brian Cummings '86.





Paul Reiss Memorial

All are welcome on Friday, April 12th at 11:30 AM in the Chapel of the Archangel for a memorial Mass celebrating the life of our 14th President, Dr. Paul Reiss, who passed away on February 23rd of this year. Dr. Paul Reiss was inaugurated as president of Saint Michael's College on the Feast of St. Edmund, September 29, 1985. President Reiss led the College in strengthening its commitment to its Edmundite Catholic mission and led the College through eleven years of increased enrollment, expanded curricular offerings, the establishment of the honors program, institutionalization of continuing education, the development of international programs with Japan and China, and in the initiation of the student Mobilization of Volunteer Efforts (MOVE) program. He instituted a major campus development program and fundraising campaign which resulted in St. Edmund's Hall, a major addition to the library, the International Commons, and the Tarrant Recreation Center, as well as major renovations to Jeanmarie Hall, Cheray Science Hall, Alliot Student Center and other campus buildings. He retired effective June 1996 and administered educational summer camp programs for inner-city youth for many years. He also served as the founding president of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks with a mission to extend mercy and justice to elders living in the community.

Schedule of 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.

*MOVE events are in gold**

Throughout April: What MOVES You? During National Volunteer Month, we invite you to share your MOVE story and add to the amazing tales of meaning and transformation from over the years. See what our beautiful MOVE community has [shared in the past](#). We welcome submissions throughout April. [Submit your story here](#).

Comfort Bags for the Houseless: Join alumni Katie Braman and Henry Haddad in creating comfort bags for community members in need. Katie and Henry are collecting monetary donations to put together bags of hygiene and other items to donate to a local organization that supports community members experiencing houselessness. To make a contribution, email Lara Scott, Director of MOVE, at lscott@smcvt.edu.

April 3rd: The Solar Eclipse! Saint Michael's College Physics Professor and astrophysicist Alain Brizard will discuss the different types of eclipses and some of the history of their discovery at **5:00 PM on April 3rd, in McCarthy Arts Recital Hall**. He will also focus on what to expect during the total solar eclipse on April 8th, 2024 – especially during totality. Professor Brizard will explain how that might affect what we see on April 8th as well.

April 7th: SMC Buddies: Spend the afternoon (2-4 PM) with SMC college buddies and wonderful community buddies for *Sports Day*. SMC Buddies works with adults who live with developmental disabilities and every day with SMC Buddies is filled with fun, laughter, and a lot of joy. We hope you'll join us. [Please sign up here](#)

April 12th: Outdoor Volunteer Effort (OVE) Farm Friday: Join our wonderful OVE program to spend the afternoon (2-5 PM) on the Farm at SMC, our program community partner, for the first Farm Friday of the spring. We show up as volunteers in any ways the Farm team needs us to help start the season. [Please sign up here](#)

April 16th: Cook N Food: Join our Cook N Food student leadership team for an evening (4:30-7:30 PM) of cooking for Dismas House or Anew Place. We cook together, deliver the meal, and sit in community to eat at Dismas/Anew Place. Beautiful opportunities to show up with each other. [Please sign up here](#)

April 17th: Join us for a special evening introducing Saint Michael's College's 18th President Dr. Richard Plumb and his wife, Mary Plumb. Cocktails and hors

d'oeuvres, followed by remarks from President Plumb. It will be Wednesday, April 17, 2024 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM @ 30 Hudson Yards - 63rd Floor (500 West 33rd Street, New York City, NY 10001). RVSP to Stephanie Snell, ssnell2@smcvt.edu

April 24th: In the spirit of the Edmundite tradition of service to others and as part of National Volunteer Month, the **Saint Michael's Alumni Club of Hartford** invites you to join fellow Purple Knights in a community service project. Join us as we cook and serve dinner together at a local homeless shelter. The event will take place at Immacare at 5:30 PM. For more information contact events@smcvt.edu

April 26th: Therapy Dogs in MOVE : Spend some time (11-1 PM) in MOVE visiting with therapy dogs from Therapy Dogs of Vermont. Take some time to learn more about another side of serving our community and enjoy some pups while you are with us. [Please sign up here](#)

April 28th: SMC Buddies: see April 12.

April 29th: Cook N Food: See April 16.

May 20th: In the Connecticut River Valley area? Join the 'Lunch Bunch' for the first ever Connecticut Purple Knights Golf Outing! It will be **Monday, May 20, with a 10:30 AM shotgun start.** The event will be held at Keney Park Golf Course in Hartford, CT. If you are interested please reach out to Andy McElroy, andymcelroyjr@gmail.com, **by May 14th.**

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.

June 1st: Join **Dr. Bill Tortolano (retired)** and current Chorale director **Professor Nat Lew** in song at Reunion 2024! All former members of both Glee Club and Chorale are invited; [register here!](#)

September 20th-24th: Save the date for Alumni & Family Weekend 2024! More info to come.

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