



OFFICE OF ALUMNI & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

February 2024 eNews

Happy Valentine's, Purple Knights!



Fierce Urgency of Now artwork created on 2nd floor Dion by students in honor of the MLK Convocation week



Dear SMC Family,

Following a very successful 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration, we partnered again to provide vision and leadership for the 2024 MLK Convocation. A committee of sixteen students, staff, and faculty met biweekly to plan a wonderful week of programming, including a full day of events on Dr. King's birthday.

Professor Emerita Traci Griffith, Racial Justice Program Director for the ACLU Massachusetts, served as keynote speaker, and received two standing ovations. Rev. David Theroux, SSE, Rev. David Cray, SSE, and Director of Purposeful Learning Heidi St. Peter shared their personal experiences in Selma and Louisiana, working among Black people and those marginalized. The Gospel Choir sang civil rights anthems in Alliot, and the new art club Creative Commons created a mural depicting *The Fierce Urgency of Now* on Dion's second floor. Stop by and consider how it might inspire you to impact the world.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we hope you reflect on the possibility of a future in which we are truly able to realize Dr. King's *Beloved Community* and a place where all feel the joy of living together, especially here at Saint Michael's.

We invite you to contact us with ideas for speakers and events for the 2025 MLK Convocation. For a more detailed reflection on this year's convocation, click [here](#).

Vernita Weller, *Student Success Advisor* vweller@smcvt.edu
Laura Crain, *Library Director* lcrain@smcvt.edu



Freeman Foundation Scholars Announced for Summer 2024

Sixteen Saint Michael's College students will travel to either South Korea or Vietnam this summer thanks to the Freeman Foundation scholarship program. The students will participate in 8-week-long internships during June and July in either Seoul, South Korea, or Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Saint Michael's is one of only 30 colleges and universities in the country to receive this competitive grant from the Freeman Foundation to support the Global Citizenship International Internship program each year.

[Read more about the selected students >](#)
[Read more on the scholarship >](#)



The Annual Career Symposium is Back and Better Than Ever!

The Alumni Board of Directors is excited to host the annual Career Symposium for students and alumni panelists on Friday, March 22nd. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore a variety of career paths available based on real world alumni experiences and advice.

The end of the day will include a networking event for students and alumni. [Register today](#) to make connections with current Saint Michael's

students and alumni at our Networking Reception on March 22nd from 6:20 -7:30 pm in Dion Student Center! Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.



St. Mike's Soars to New Heights

Many people fly a flag at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro to celebrate climbing their way to 19,341 feet, but Jackson Sargent '24 might be the very first person to ever fly his Saint Michael's College sweatshirt on the peak of Africa's highest mountain.

The St. Mike's senior completed a semester-long [study abroad program in Tanzania](#) in fall 2023 studying wildlife conservation and political ecology. After four months of studying in Tanzania, he stayed a bit longer to conquer one final goal: Mount Kilimanjaro. Sargent says he soloed Kilimanjaro because he didn't climb with anyone he knew, but it's government-mandated that all climbers must have a government-approved guide. Sargent's team included a guide and four porters who helped carry gear and set up camp. His Saint Michael's hoodie became a shared source of comfort for all of them as they took turns wearing it on the climb.

[Read more >](#)



The Spring Senior Art Exhibitions are Open!

The Art & Design Senior Exhibitions of 2024 open next week in McCarthy Art Gallery and will feature 13 solo student exhibitions from January 23 through May 10.

The exhibitions have a range of art mediums, including painting, film, photography, and woodworking projects. All the exhibitions are open to the public. Stop by when you have the chance!

[Read more >](#)



Destination DC Alumni and Student Networking Event



Calling All Alumni! (you too, 2023!)

Did you know that by sharing your job title and industry with the college, you help prospective Purple Knights decide to come

DC area alumni, please join us to welcome the second annual 'Destination D.C.' contingent from Saint Michael's! Sixteen of St. Mike's finest have been selected to accompany Jeff Ayres of the Center for Global Engagement and Ingrid Peterson and Joe Speidel of the Boucher Career Center for meetings with alumni and visits to Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court.

[Last year](#), the alumni networking reception was a highlight of their trip, incredibly well attended and so much fun for all! Come meet these remarkable students, mingle with other St. Mike's alumni, parents, and friends, and share your own DC experience – register [here](#)!

to St. Mike's?

Every year, the college shares aggregate data with prospective students and families, as well as promotional sources that teens use to decide on colleges. Being able to cite statistics - like that 97% of the class of 2022 was employed within 6 months after graduation – showcases the value of a St. Mike's education.

You can contribute to this effort! Between now and February, 14th! Visit this [link](#) for all 2023 grads and [here](#) for all preceding classes! Email Diane Ingalls '25 *Data Science Major*, dingalls3@mail.smcvt.edu with any questions! Thank you!





A Saint Michael's Legend Defined a Life Well-Lived

Walter J. Fitzmaurice, class of 1949, passed away peacefully on January 10, 2024, two months past his 100th birthday. Born in Rumford, Maine, Walter was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Force during the height of World War II. Stationed in England, he proudly took his place in the "Greatest Generation," serving as a radio operator and machine gunner on B-24 Liberators, flying 30 combat missions over enemy territory with the renowned "Flying Eight-Balls."

After the end of WWII, Walter returned to the U.S. and attended Saint Michael's, earning a B.S. in Biological Studies in 1949. That same year he met the love of his life, Lorraine, who survives him. They were married for 75 years and raised eight children in North Reading, MA, where they lived for more than 72 years as vital members of their community and St. Theresa's parish.

Rest in peace, Walter, and thank you for nearly 80 years of devotion to your home on the Hilltop. You have been a good and faithful servant and have lived out the words of Saint Paul: "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*" (2 Timothy: 4-7) You truly embodied the vision of Saint Michael's: *Do Well and Do Good.*

[For Walter's full obituary >](#)
[To read more on Walter >](#)



Beth Connolly '04 Using Running Psychotherapy to Help Clients

Connolly graduated from St. Mike's in 2004 with a B.A. in Psychology and earned her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Antioch University in Keene, New Hampshire. She opened her private practice four years ago after reading a magazine article in *Runner's World* about a clinician in Los Angeles who was integrating running and walking with talk therapy.

Connolly said she always knew movement was a key ingredient to improving someone's mental health, but trying to motivate her clients to get moving was often challenging in a traditional office setting during talk therapy sessions. Now, her office is positioned close to the ocean, near Hampton Beach, and most of the sessions are spent outside moving. Connolly said the ocean helps her clients reach an additional level of mindfulness.

[Read more about Beth's work.](#)





The Nordic Ski Team is Traveling in Style!

The weather at last year's Williams Ski Carnival at Prospect Mountain in Woodford, Vermont, was terrible - freezing rain to be specific. Ten of the 11 Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association (EISA) teams were dry and warm in their wax trailers as they prepared their athletes' skis.

Head Coach Molly Peters had only a small tent to shield her from the rain and wind, and the tent did not provide much protection or warmth when waxing/applying klister to the skiers' skis.

Luckily, Peters' bad-weather blues have come to an end this year thanks to a new wax trailer donated to the Saint Michael's Nordic ski team by Michael Spain '79 and his wife, Trish. Spain was a member of the Alpine team at Saint Michael's. Peters explained that the main reason the Nordic team needed a wax trailer was to protect them from the weather. Peters no longer has to wax skis outside in below zero temperatures, snowstorms, or pouring rain. Thanks to the trailer, she now has an adequate space to prepare her team's skis. The wax trailer also helps provide better waxing, which is an important aspect of ski racing.

[Read more >](#)



St. Patrick's Day Parade in Naples, Florida!

President Richard Plumb and the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement invite you, your family, and friends to join fellow Purple Knights as we show off our St. Mike's pride and celebrate the luck o' the Irish for the 12th year! The parade will be held on Saturday, March 16th, at 10:30am. Meet SMC at the staging location, which will be announced the week of the parade. [RSVP here](#) by February 16 with your t-shirt size and email [Stephanie Snell](#) with any questions.



Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow - Reunion 2024

Please join us May 31-June 2 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!

Visit the [Reunion](#) page for details on accommodations, the weekend schedule and [making a gift](#) in support of the place that gave you so much. In addition, Be sure to also check out @smcvtalumni on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) as Throwback Thursdays are in full swing and each class is getting its own feature! We look forward to seeing you back on campus!



Join Us for Purple & Gold Day!

Attention Purple Knights! Mark your calendar for the 11th annual Purple & Gold Day, taking place this year wherever Purple Knights are found across the globe! We're going virtual this year to ensure that everyone can join the fun!

There are so many ways to celebrate – be creative and share it with us! Post photos online of Purple Knight reunions, organize a day of service in your community, create a video sharing what you love about St. Mike's, write a note of thanks to your favorite professor, or make a gift in support of the place we all called home. It's up to you how you celebrate, but however you choose, be sure to take part in this beloved SMC tradition!

Your continued support of St. Mike's is vital to ensure every opportunity for today's Purple Knights. Whether you make a gift, nominate a future Knight, or share what you loved best from your SMC experience, it all builds and strengthens this amazing community for generations to come.

Show the SMC love on March 28th – and every day! Look for more info in the coming weeks – and start making plans for Purple & Gold Day!

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.

February 29th: Calling all DC Alumni! Join us as we welcome the second annual '**Destination DC**' group traveling down from St. Mike's! Sixteen students, Jeff Ayres of the Center for Global Engagement, and Ingrid Peterson and Joe Speidel from the Boucher Career Center will share news from campus - and the students will

be eager to meet alumni and friends of SMC. We hope you can join us! For more information or to RSVP click [here](#).

March 16th: The Naples, FL St. Patrick's Day parade will be held once again and it's not too late to join up with St. Mike's! The parade will be held on Saturday, March 16th at 10:30am. Meet SMC at the staging location which will be announced the week of the parade. [RSVP here](#) by February 16. More information above!

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 part of the planning process, please reach out to events@smcvt.edu.

March 28th: Join us for our 11th annual **Purple and Gold Day!** More information above!

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. For more information contact events@smcvt.edu

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.

Do Well and Do Good



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