



Aquinas Scholars
HONORS PROGRAM

The

SCHOLARS JOURNAL

September 2024

NEW SCHOLARS!



We would like to welcome the new first-year class of honors students! Our program continues to grow, and we are so happy that this class did not disappoint. It is our biggest class yet! We were able to welcome a large number of the students who were living in the LLC on their first day of college.

FEATURED

Scholars Community - p.1-3

- Welcome, Dr. Hugh Smeltekop!
- Professor of the Year
- Meet the Board

Scholars Journal - p. 4-7

- "North Shore"
- "A Reflection on Material Things"
- "Her"
- "Kyoto, Japan"
- "September is Here"
- "Views of Assisi, Italy"
- "The Ludus Mangus"

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WELCOME, DR. HUGH SMELTEKOP!



Dr. Hugh Smeltekop has joined us as the faculty director starting this fall! Previously, he was the assistant director of the STEM Inclusive Excellence Program at UST for four years. His experience in higher education includes roles at the University of St. Catherine, Century College, and a rural campus of the Catholic University of Bolivia. But we are so fortunate to have such a welcoming and happy spirit joining us here at Honors! Stop by his office at JRC 157 and say hi whenever you see Hugh; welcome him into honors!!

PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR: JAMES SNAPKO

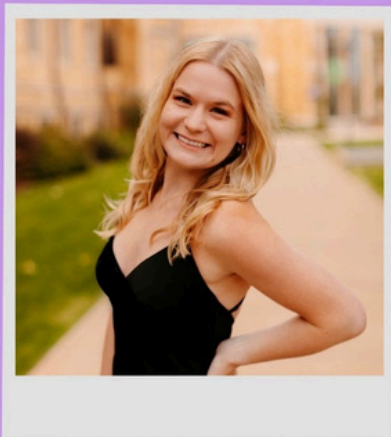


During the New Scholars Banquet, our President Mikayla Polski and Vice President Hannah Samuelson, was able to introduce our professor of the year for the 2024-2025 school year, which is James Snapko. James Snapko is a professor of film studies.



Other fun pictures for the new scholars banquet!

MEET THE E-BOARD



Mikayla Polski

PRESIDENT



Hannah Samuelson

VICE PRESIDENT



Aly Stiller

TREASURER



Jack Faggart

SECRETARY



NORTH SHORE

Soren Gabor



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylxUVFIHdI0>

The North Shore has long been a place of raw, natural beauty for my family – past Duluth, Minnesota, countless miles of jagged coastline form a barrier between ordered land and the undulating inland sea of Lake Superior. This video provides my perspective throughout a recent adventure in the great North, camping and hiking through the untamed wilderness.

A REFLECTION ON MATERIAL THINGS

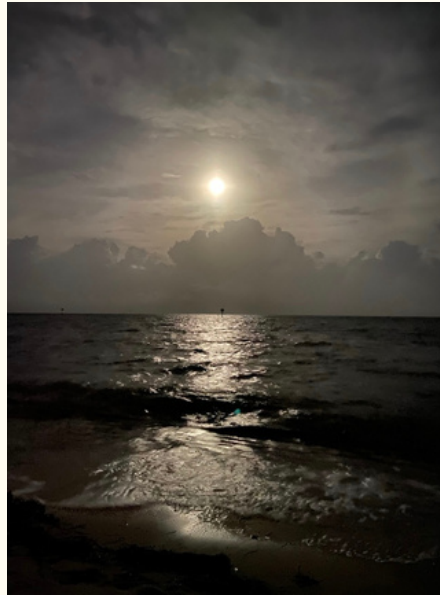
Eleanor Cummings

What good are rosaries that sit pretty in a jewelry box?
Or a bible that collects dust on the shelf?
If you took them out could the beads break or the pages tear?
Maybe, but suppose you never did.
How would you ever learn to pray?
What wisdom would you never know?
Everything that was made for a purpose deserves to fulfill it.
It is the bravest thing we can do.



HER

Ashley Binstock



I am asking if you told the moon
because of the way she is shining tonight,
There is something in her wink
that knows,
To hold me a little closer
the smooth dip of her craters,
My spine
enwrapped in rock and light,
That when I become lost within
folds of depthless sky,
Pulled like taffy, drowned in tides
i am returned,
Thighs enveloped by Earth's soft hairs
i gaze up at the moon and,
Ask her to hold you too



KYOTO, JAPAN

Raiza Guzman



Hello, I'm Raiza! I'm currently a junior studying abroad in Seoul, South Korea. Recently, I had a few days off school because of a Korean holiday called Chuseok which is basically like Korean Thanksgiving. Using these free days, I decided to head to Kyoto to visit a friend and explore this lively city. Here's a little picture of me in front of the Yasaka Pagoda. This impressive structure is more than 1,400 years old and is the only remaining structure of the 6th century Hokan-ji Temple. Overall, Kyoto was such a beautiful tradition filled city, and it was interesting to compare and differentiate it from Seoul, South Korea.

SEPTEMBER IS HERE

Jack Arnason

The air turns crisp as September sighs,
Soft breeze dances under pale blue skies.
The sun, once bold, now gentle and low,
Whispers of autumn in every glow.
Leaves blush gold in the cool breeze,
Summer's soft farewell in the rustling trees.



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VIEWS OF ASSISI, ITALY

Elise Modeski



September 14th, 2024. A day trip to Assisi, Italy with the Theology class through the Rome Empower Program. On top of a picturesque hill speckled with olive trees, we explored the old town of Assisi and the historic churches built in honor of St. Francis and St. Chiara.

THE LUDUS MANGUS

Maria Lorpresto



The Ludus Magnus is the school where gladiators were trained for their competitions. Located across from the Colosseum, the Ludus Magnus was built sometime between 81 and 96 CE. The brick structure we can see today would have been covered in marble.

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