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The Scholars Newsletter

St. Thomas Aquinas Scholars Honors Program



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Book Drive

Service Chairs

We have been collecting new and used books in the lounge to donate to public libraries in our community. These books will help libraries raise funds and provide services to those who visit the library. There is a box in the lounge currently, and we will be dropping the books off on Tuesday, February 28.

Movie and Bowling Night

Social Chairs

The Aquinas Scholars Movie and Bowling Night was lots of fun! It was a great way to kick off social events this semester and chat with fellow scholars. Many students got a chance to bowl a round or play some pool together while others watched La La Land next door. Everyone enjoyed the Valentine's candy gift bags which was a fun way to get into the holiday spirit. Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed our event!



Sleep is Your Superpower

Academic Chairs

Through the workshops with the Center for Well-Being, Scholars learned ways to improve their sleeping habits and time management skills. They look forward to a spring semester that includes quality snoozing and a well-balance schedule!

She and I

by Hannah Samuelson

Her closet bursts with eccentric patterns, bright colors, and flailing tassels, while mine remains almost empty, a blank canvas, with a few ordinary t-shirts. Her face is blushed like an overly frosted sugar cookie, and mine as though I was never taught the concept of makeup. Her life is a great romantic comedy starring Rachel McAdams, and mine is a coming-of-age B-movie forged by a clichéd screenwriter. She is the kind of person who needs people around her, who will call more frequent the longer you are away, and who favors breathing the same air as others. I am the one who could go off the grid, who would walk into the woods alone to never be found again.

She is a muse to artists, and I enjoy that art once displayed for viewing. People are attracted to the light that she emits, constantly finding her when they crave excitement. People only find me when they need counseling or assistance. She knows the love of her life, her wedding day is planned, and her children are named. I know that I will involuntarily live in my predetermined state of becoming an old woman with too many cats. She goes through her weeks being completely satisfied with not knowing what's next, whereas I read every instruction manual, study every map, and plan my to-do list down to the minute. Her walk is beyond graceful, and, with her struts and sashays, she can turn the streets of the 16th century cobblestone into a stage of dream-filled clouds. I tend to scramble around like a ditzy secretary in a fast-paced stock brokerage firm.

Her presence is intoxicating, arousing to even the hardened hearts, and I only appear noticeable when I choose to be a heinous feminist. She speaks of validation to my chaotic thought process, empowering my emotions and endorsing my existence, and I can only hope that I contribute enough adoration to her. She is like a bird, flying freely though life, and I a stump, too grounded for my own good.

She is a ray of sunshine, and I hate sitting on the beach. Perhaps I am breath of fresh air. Though, when you start to drown, my breath can save you, yet she is the reason why you swim towards the surface.

Lino Lakes: An Urbanized Wetland

by Victoria Kurdyumov



This was my final project for Biology 209 last fall. I investigated the environmental challenges of wetlands in urban areas, specifically in my hometown, Lino Lakes. I had a lot of fun getting footage and editing the whole thing together.

Link: <https://youtu.be/mUxXnb7SF7M>

Book Review: *Daisy Jones and the Six*

by Grace Eggleston

Earlier this month, I read *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. I had initially been interested in this book due to the upcoming series, its inspiration from Fleetwood Mac, and positive reviews from both readers and critics. This book was a very quick read and I finished it in less than a week, even ignoring schoolwork because I simply could not put the book down.

I fell in love with the characters, especially band members Graham Dunne and Karen Sirko, whose intertwining storylines were incredibly bittersweet, with many endearing and heartbreaking moments between them throughout the story. The lead singers Daisy Jones and Billy Dunne were incredibly broken and flawed characters, and I liked the author's depiction of their musical and romantic chemistry, as well as their struggles with addiction. As a music enthusiast, I enjoyed reading about the band's logistical and creative processes when it came to songwriting, performing, and overall theatrics.

Overall, I enjoyed the book, but, and perhaps this is an odd critique, I found the book almost too reminiscent of Fleetwood Mac and the band's overall history. It felt a little offputting to see so many aspects of the fictional characters within real-life Fleetwood Mac members. The book felt a bit more like a "based on" story rather than an "inspired by" story which it was marketed as. Nevertheless, I still would recommend this book to anyone interested in music, 70s culture, and complex characters. I look forward to watching the series this March!

Montana

by Soren Gabor



I've been skiing since I could walk and recently took a trip to Montana (at both Big Sky and Bridger Bowl) to get some powder and a couple cool shots with my phone. The linked video is a montage of my adventures there. I've attached a cover photo as well.

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

The Alhambra

by Bridget Zenk



This photo was taken in Granada, Spain at the Alhambra. The Alhambra, now a Spanish historic site, was a fortress for the last Islamic Kingdom in Southern Iberia before the Spanish Inquisition. The Alhambra is one of the best-preserved palaces of the historic Islamic world and is now one of the most well-known exemplars of the coupling of Moorish culture with Spanish Renaissance architecture.

Sunrise in the Sky

by Grace Thuringer



This photo was taken in Luxor, Egypt in January. Luxor is a city located along the Nile River and 8 hours away from Cairo by car. Luxor is known being the home of many temples and tombs. Some of the most famous tombs are in the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, an area where pharaohs, pharaohs' wives, and noblemen were buried. For example, Tutankhamun's tomb is one of the many tombs in the valley. On this hot air balloon ride you could see the Valley of the Kings, the Valley of the Queens, farmland, temples, and other balloons. One of the famous temples in the Luxor is Karnak temple, the largest temple ever constructed. The temple had each pharaoh add their own contribution to the temple to further honor the king of all the gods. All these views and monuments are amazing, but sometimes a sunrise is hard to top.

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