

CANOPY

A PUBLICATION OF THE AQUINAS COLLEGE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT



1886 LEGACY SOCIETY
REMEMBERING JEANNE
MAYAN

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF
A STUDENT FEATURING
TERRY ALMAME

5 QUESTIONS WITH
ALUMNA SHARI MCCARTY,
ED.D., MS, MM '89, '98



CANOPY

SPRING 2021

Canopy is a publication of the Aquinas College Office of Advancement. While we are apart, we want to keep the doors of Aquinas College open to you and share some of the great things happening in our Saints community under the enduring canopy of our beautiful campus.

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AQUINAS COLLEGE

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Aquinas College is an equal opportunity employer and an inclusive educational community rooted in the Catholic Dominican tradition. Aquinas College provides a liberal arts education with a global perspective, emphasizes career preparation focused on leadership and service to others, and fosters a commitment to lifelong learning dedicated to the pursuit of truth and the common good. Aquinas College values:
Faith, Learning, Service, and Community.

From Our Vice President for Advancement

Dear Saints Community,

I want to begin this note with gratitude. We are so appreciative of all that you have done for Aquinas College and our students this year. We've shared our challenges with you, and you have responded. The number of people supporting the College with charitable gifts has grown 83 percent over last year. Our students are greatly encouraged by this outpouring and knowing they are part of a strong Saints community. Thank you.

As I look ahead, two things are at the forefront of my mind: 1.) completing our Contributing to More Campaign and 2.) safely getting together as a community again!

We are in the final leg of our historic Contributing to More Campaign. Though COVID-19 has impacted our efforts, we are committed to completing the campaign by this June. The capstone of the campaign is the renovation and expansion of Albertus Magnus Hall of Science. This space is already having a tremendous impact on our students. Read more on page 6. If you would like to take a tour (virtually or in-person), please contact me at 616.632.2821 or gina.covert@aquinas.edu.

In hopeful anticipation that we can safely resume events for our alumni and friends, we've included a few dates for your calendar on page 4. The safety of our community will remain our top priority. We will keep you informed of any changes that arise and appreciate your understanding.

Again, thank you for the incredible support you have provided to our students. Together, Saints can accomplish anything!

Stay well and be blessed,



Gina Covert, CAP®
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT



Alessia Restivo '18, accounting analyst, Orion Energy Partners

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 17, 2021: PETER M. WEGE PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT AT KENT COUNTRY CLUB

Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to golf alongside the pros while raising funds to support our AQ Saints. Limited sponsorship opportunities are available. Reserve your spot today by contacting Kara VanEgmond at (616) 632-2845 or knv001@aquinas.edu.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2021: ALBERTUS MAGNUS HALL OF SCIENCE CELEBRATION

We are thrilled to announce the public blessing and celebration of the fully renovated and expanded Albertus Magnus Hall of Science. Come experience this magnificent addition to campus and our science and health professions.

SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2021: HOMECOMING AT AQUINAS COLLEGE

This extended weekend will have something for everyone including events at Albertus Hall, a new welcome home reception, the inaugural Coach Terry Bocian Athletic Hall of Fame, Golden Saints brunch, Masses, multicultural alumni social, class reunions, athletic events and more!

Note: Aquinas College is following guidance from the CDC and local health departments regarding large gatherings. Any changes will be communicated as early as possible.

Developing the Confidence to Say Yes!

In winter 2018, Alessia Restivo was presented with an unexpected opportunity. Through the help of a connection at the AQ Advantage Center, AQ Alumnus Nazar Massouh, CEO of Orion Energy Partners was visiting Grand Rapids from New York and offered to meet with her. It was over Thanksgiving break, and he only had a 15 minute window available. They'd have to meet at a coffee shop in the airport.

Some students might have passed on this, but not Alessia. She said yes.

Their meeting was enough to get the ball rolling. By Christmas, she had secured her first job after graduation.

Alessia attributes this success in large part to two things she had access to at Aquinas: mentorship through the AQ Advantage Center and her experience through the Business Leadership Development Program. Students in this program gain access to:

- Tours of local corporations where they speak with business leaders.

- Training to define, develop and present their unique personal brand.
- Networking at local events and professional business conferences.
- Opportunities to hone their dining, conversational and networking etiquette.

As Alessia's story demonstrates, these offerings give our Saints a competitive advantage and result in highly-motivated, confident students who know when to say yes to a good opportunity.

For a limited time, we have an opportunity to grow this program so more students can gain these essential skills and benefit from career mentorship. Now through May 31, gifts to the Business Leadership Development Program will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 by a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges.



Join us! Be a part of helping more Saints prepare for and launch their career after AQ by making a gift today at aquinas.edu/leadership-development or scan the QR code above.

3Things to Know

President Kevin G. Quinn

**Accolades and Achievements**

In addition to the national recognition Aquinas College received in the fall from U.S. News and World Report, Princeton Review, and others, the College was recently recognized with a 2021-22 Military Friendly School designation from Victory and three Plexuss global rankings: #5 Best Liberal Arts College in Michigan, #10 Best in Michigan Offering Foreign Language Programs, and #12 Best in Michigan Offering Health Professions Programs. This is a testament to the excellence of our faculty, staff and students. Congratulations!

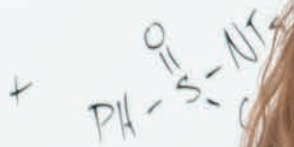
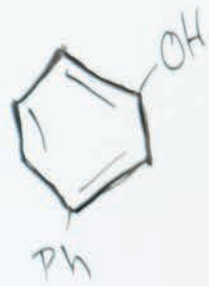
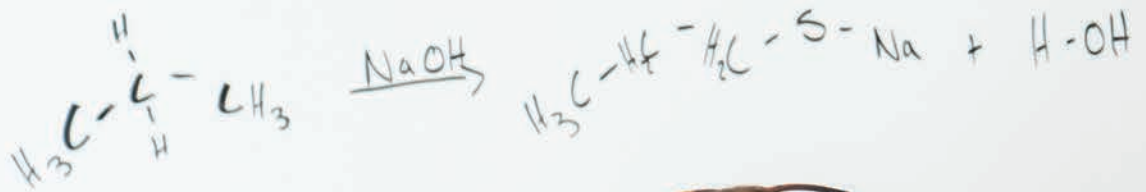
Continuing Response to COVID-19

One of the purest representations of our values is the way our community — students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends — continues to respond to the pandemic. Through sacrifice, hard work and genuine care for one another, we have been able to maintain in-person classes and activities as well as seeing the start of the season for all of our athletic teams. I am grateful to our Saints community for their dedication to keeping our campus as safe as possible.

Transformation with Mission in Mind

Small private and independent colleges have been challenged by shifting dynamics for a number of years, and certainly will be operating in a new world as we emerge from the pandemic. In the context of that reality, we are thinking about the future of the College — both our physical space and our strategic initiatives. Many exciting things are in motion as we work to execute the goals of our strategic plan. Our goal is to center all that we do around the mission that the Dominican Sisters established so that we can continue building momentum toward a bright future that fully embodies that mission in the lives of our students.

Preparing for a Medical Career During a Global Pandemic



LINDSAY JUZWIAK
 IS STUDYING
 BIOLOGY AT
 AQUINAS. SHE WILL
 GRADUATE IN MAY
 AND THEN PLANS
 TO GO STRAIGHT TO
 MEDICAL SCHOOL.
 SHE IS INTERESTED
 IN RESEARCH
 AND SURGERY
 WITH A FOCUS ON
 PEDIATRICS.

WHAT HAS LEARNING IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC BEEN LIKE FOR YOU?

Lindsay: It has definitely been a challenge. I was fortunate to complete my major-centered classes before the pandemic. I now have a mix of in-person and online classes. I like in-person learning because it's tough to be at home and manage distractions. If I have to be online, I prefer being asynchronous. That's not something I ever said before this experience.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT AQUINAS?

Lindsay: One of the things I appreciate most is the small class sizes that have allowed me to get to know my professors on a different level. My professors are so personable, and having these connections has helped me as I prepare for medical school. I feel comfortable reaching out to them for guidance and advice.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE, HAS THE PANDEMIC CHANGED THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT GOING INTO THE MEDICAL FIELD?

Lindsay: It's been encouraging to see everyone in the health field come together to try to figure this out. We see nurses and doctors going above and beyond, working in COVID units, vaccine clinics and caring for people. Everyone has stepped outside of their bubble to come together, and that has been inspiring to me.



DO YOU THINK THIS EXPERIENCE WILL IMPACT THE TYPE OF PHYSICIAN YOU BECOME?

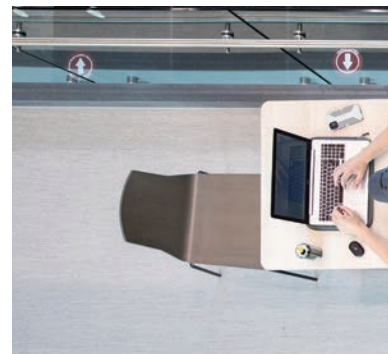
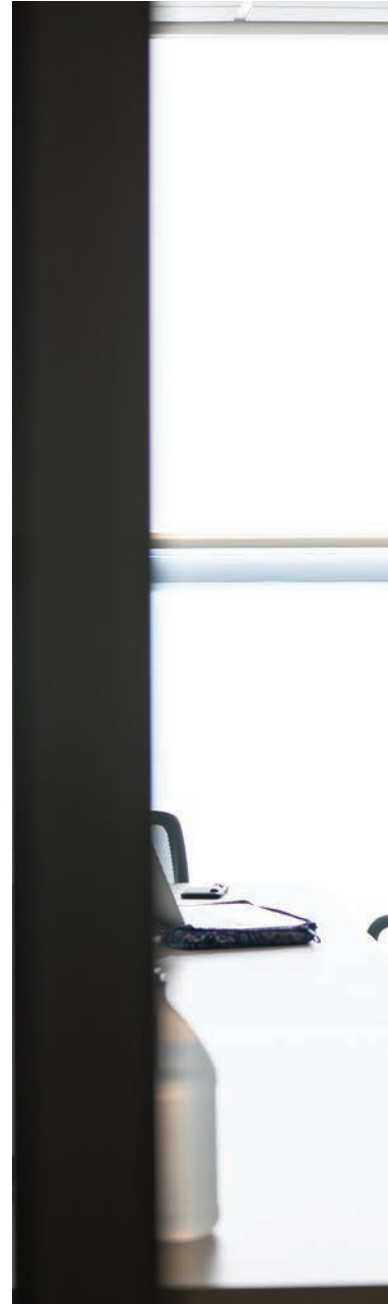
Lindsay: I think this will make me a better practitioner in the long-run. People are going through so much right now. We've seen the importance of patient contact and education rather than just focusing on fixing a medical problem. I've worked for Visiting Angels for two years where I do in-home care for patients. I've seen how sharing information can give people peace of mind. I've also seen how being there for a person, especially when they are isolated, is so important.

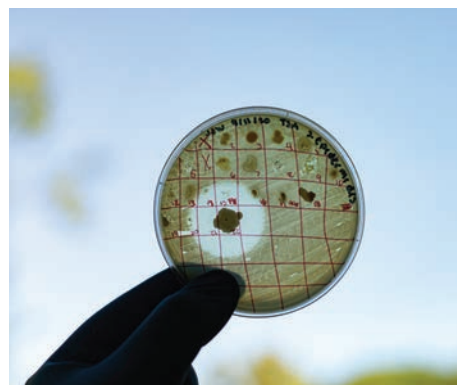
IN ADDITION TO THE PANDEMIC, YOU'VE BEEN AT AQUINAS THROUGH THE RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF ALBERTUS MAGNUS HALL OF SCIENCE. HOW HAS THE NEW SPACE IMPACTED YOUR EDUCATION?

Lindsay: The new building is amazing. It was finished during my junior year. Comparing the space in the labs and the resources they offer, the difference is significant. It is going to make learning so much more efficient for students and professors.

For example, in organic chemistry, we have to work under a fume hood for specific experiments. There were only two hoods in the old building, so students crowded around and had to wait to take turns. Now there are enough fume hoods and personal workstations. It may sound minor, but now we also have multiple sinks in a lab, making the cleanup process go so much more smoothly. We have more time for discovery and learning.

I spend a lot of time studying in the new building too. The study spaces are great with lots of whiteboards.





BE A PART OF SCIENCE AT AQUINAS

To prepare the next generation of Aquinas-educated doctors, nurses, researchers, science-entrepreneurs and scientists, the renovation and expansion of Albertus Magnus Hall of Science has been made possible through the Aquinas College Contributing to More Campaign. The campaign will end this June, and we need your help to meet our goal. To date, we have raised a historic \$52.6 million toward the \$58 million needed to complete all campaign-related projects.

Those who make a donation to the Albertus Hall project by June 1, 2021, will be included in our permanent donor recognition display in the building. A handful of naming opportunities for select spaces in the building are also available. Options for contributing include:

- Multi-year pledges
- Commemorative and memorial gifts
- Gifts of marketable securities
- Retirement account distributions
- Planned gift commitments

To learn more or to arrange a tour of the new Albertus Magnus Hall of Science, please contact Mary Slafkosky, senior philanthropy officer at (616) 632-2453 or mvs002@aquinas.edu.



1886 Legacy Society

Remembering Jeanne Mayan



Three generations of Saints: Jeanne (Osbourne) Walch '90, '98 and Tom Walch '90, '95, along with their son Jack, who is currently a sophomore, celebrate the life and legacy of their beloved Aunt Jeanne Mayan.



Jeanne Mayan was one of five siblings in the Mayan family to leave Merrill, Michigan, near Saginaw, to attend Aquinas College between 1952 and 1967. At Aquinas, they discovered career paths, experienced personal growth, deepened their faith and found life partners that expanded their family.

In the midst of it all, the Mayans faced another significant change — the loss of their father. Jeanne, the third eldest, left Aquinas early, returning to Merrill, to take the helm of the family business, The Mayan Agency. Jeanne's move was significant as she was a 22-year-old woman leading a business in 1958. But she was up for the task.

CREATE YOUR LEGACY

If you'd like Aquinas College to be a part of your legacy or the legacy of your family, like Jeanne Mayan and Jeanne Walch, let's connect. A bequest provides a simple and flexible way to create something significant and reflective of your interests.

*To learn more or to discuss your ideas for a bequest, contact **Cecilia Cunningham**, senior philanthropy officer at (616) 632-2816 or c.cunningham@aquinas.edu.*

In talking about their family legacy and connection to Aquinas, Jeanne Mayan and Jeanne Walch established the Mayan-Osbourne Family Scholarship. They seeded the fund and additional family members have since contributed to its growth.

"Aunt Jeanne and I had a special connection, and creating the scholarship was something meaningful we did together, which strengthened our bond. Through this fund, we remember our roots at Aquinas. It also honors our parents and grandparents who encouraged us in our education and faith and taught us to give back," Jeanne Walch said.

Jeanne Mayan passed away in February 2020 at the age of 82, leaving a deep family legacy of love. Through her will, she also left a generous bequest to the Mayan-Osbourne Family Scholarship that more than doubled the size of the fund. This will mean more scholarship awards to help more students every year.

"The scholarship is open to all students and is based on financial need. We have many majors represented in our family, so we didn't want our scholarship to go to any specific degree. We want it to go to those who need it most and to let God be part of the process," Jeanne Walch said. "Because it is endowed, it is long-lasting. That meant a lot to Aunt Jeanne too, which is why she left the bequest. This fund connects us forever."

"Aunt Jeanne was a trail-blazer and truly one of a kind. She felt that Aquinas helped mold her into the person she was. She gained independence during her time on campus, and the College nurtured her into adulthood. She later served on the Board of the College [1992-1998]," said Jeanne (Osbourne) Walch '90, '98, Jeanne Mayan's niece and goddaughter.

Fast forward to today, and a member of the third generation of the Mayan family is on campus as an AQ Saint. Jeanne Walch's son, Jack, is a sophomore studying Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Between the first Mayan siblings and Jack Walch, more than 20 extended family members have chosen to be Saints.

The 1886 Legacy Society recognizes those who include Aquinas College in their estate plans. Members receive updates from leadership, recognition in our publications and invitations to special Aquinas College events.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SAINT

a pictorial

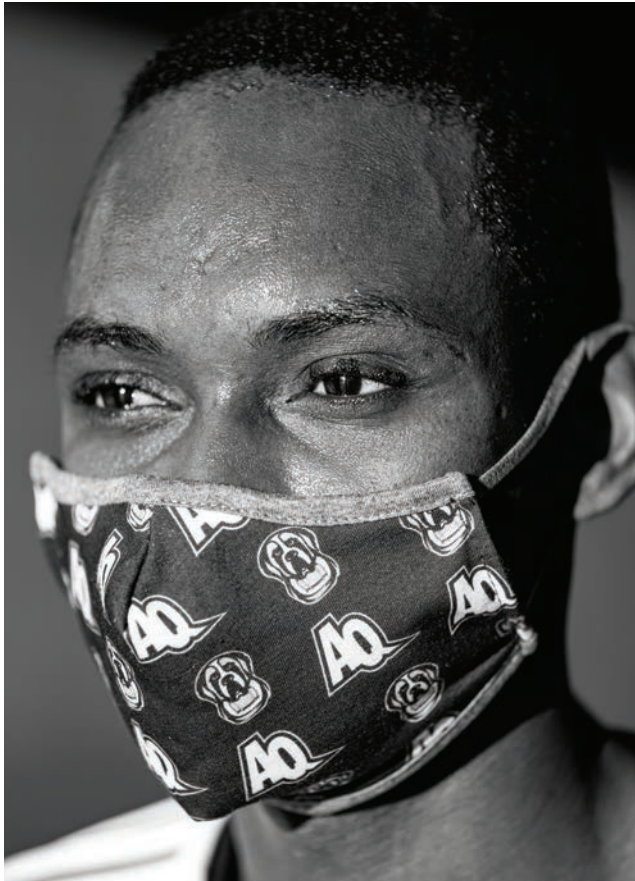
Name: Terry Almage

Year: Sophomore

Studying: Political Science, Business and Legal Studies

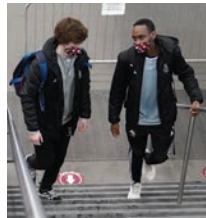
Activities: Men's soccer and working the front desk for Resident Life





On being a college student during a pandemic:

“This has been a weird experience, but I’m happy I’ve been able to continue my education. I feel like I’ve done what I needed to do this year. It has been new and different, but we’ve made it work.”



Why is it great to be a Saint?

“I appreciate the sense of community at Aquinas. Being at a small college, I know many people here. I feel welcome and like I’m not alone.”



Finding the silver lining:

“Our soccer season was canceled, but we’ve been able to spend time practicing, conditioning and getting to know each other more in our bubble of players. That has been a really good experience, and we hope the hard work will pay off.”





Dr. Shari
McCarty and
her trusty
teaching
assistant, Dr.
Mac, enjoy time
spent together
at AB.

Giving Back to AQ

5 Questions with Shari McCarty, Ed.D., MS, MM '89, '98

In each issue of Canopy, we feature alums who have given back to Aquinas College with financial support. Dr. Shari McCarty is an alumna and professor of mathematics. She has been a frequent supporter of the Aquinas Annual Fund and other College initiatives. She is also a member of our 1886 Legacy Society.

1. How did you choose to attend AQ?

Growing up, I was very close to my godparents and their family. They both attended Aquinas College and met here. I knew I wanted to stay close to home. I wanted a Catholic school and Aquinas was the only place I applied, hoping to realize my dream college. I had no idea what I wanted to study or even what Aquinas had to offer academically!

2. How did your experience at Aquinas shape who you are today?

In high school, I was friends with everyone but no one in a close way. Here at Aquinas, I developed some of the most wonderful and healthy friendships that have lasted well beyond graduation. In addition to the faculty support, it was this peer support that was immeasurable. I was the first to graduate from college in my family, and to this day, it is Aquinas and my experience here that shapes me for sure!

3. What do you think is the most significant aspect of Aquinas College?

Our faculty and staff truly care about the students here. As a student, the faculty always demonstrated a sincere interest in me and my success. Sr. Ann Mason, O.P. met me at the new student orientation in August 1985, and she was not going to let me be anything other than a mathematics major. I couldn't be happier that she steered me in the right direction. Now, as a faculty member myself, I feel it is my turn to carry on this genuine culture every day with my peers and our students.

4. Do you have a favorite Aquinas memory that you'd be willing to share?

During freshman year, I began recruiting students to become mathematics majors. Soon, there were about 10 of us that took every class together. We were very close friends and were determined to have a good time in class. One day, we were laughing during Sr. Mary Catherine's class on probability. Without warning, from her place at the chalkboard, she turned and nailed Joe Kleefisch '89 with an eraser. We laughed all the louder, and she finally started laughing, too!

5. As an alumna, why is giving back important to you?

I always take care of the people and things I love. I love Aquinas College. I am also a firm believer that gifts of all sizes matter. It exhilarates me to pull onto campus every day, and if my small donations help someone else have this feeling, then I have done my part. As a part of the Aquinas family, I want to make sure that everyone is taken care of.

..... **LET'S CONNECT**

If you are an alumnus who wants to explore ways to get more involved, we'd like to hear from you! Drop us a line today at alumni@aquinas.edu or join our online directory at aqsaintsnetwork.com.



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