



PROGRESS REPORT

MAY 2022

Grow the Morrison Family College of Health

The newly named Susan S. Morrison School of Nursing will welcome 78 confirmed first-time, first-year students interested in undergraduate nursing, and 50 confirmed MSN students next academic year. Our classes are diverse in many ways. In our undergraduate cohort, 32% are persons of color, 13% are from rural areas, 30% are first-generation college students and 19% are male. In addition, about one-third of our MSN cohort identify with more than one underrepresented category.

Momentum is building throughout the Morrison Family College of Health. A record 63 students are interested in Health and Exercise Science majors, and we are exceeding our enrollment targets in the counseling psychology graduate degree programs. Our School of Social Work is experiencing stable enrollment and was just nationally ranked in the recent *US News and World Report*. To advance strategic initiatives that would benefit students, grow the visibility of our work and accelerate co-curricular activities, the MFCOH has submitted nearly \$1 million in private and public grant proposals since February.

Prepare Students for Work and Career

St. Thomas continues to lead its peers with strong career outcomes. Our recent career outcomes survey shows that 96.5% of our students who graduated in Spring 2021 had positive career outcomes within 6 months of graduation, meaning they were employed, continuing their education, or pursuing other career-related goals. In May, we will launch an employer partner survey, the results of which will be the basis of our efforts to grow and enhance employer partnerships.

Foster Belonging and Dismantle Racism

The Racial Justice Initiative (RJI) has just wrapped up an eventful spring and is gearing up for an impactful summer as Dr. Yohuru Williams continues his work in many corporate and community spaces, using the historical recovery lens to educate and open minds. Since the last update, Yohuru has made nearly 20 community and corporate touchpoints through consulting, leading business leadership education sessions and community dialogues. This includes consulting Minnesota State Legislators on anti-bullying legislation, collaborating with the African American Leadership Forum to further the conversation on public safety in Minneapolis, and multiple appearances with corporate partners like Target, SPS Commerce, and Delta Dental of Washington.

Work on Yohuru's documentary, *Overpoliced and Under-protected*, continues. This project, in collaboration with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) and Augsburg College, seeks to research and collect accounts of police brutality in the Twin Cities over the last six decades. By exploring not only the incidents, but also the history and politics of policing as well as

the evolution of community activism, this documentary aims at inspiring meaningful change in the criminal justice system.

The Racial Justice Initiative will continue to establish itself as a prominent liaison between the community and the university within the racial justice space. With a showing of the play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, RJI will partner with the Guthrie Theatre on May 20 to deepen understanding of the play's important messaging.

Build National Awareness and Advance Priorities through Athletics



There are many highlights to share about our first year in Division I Athletics, summarized in [this recap](#). This Spring, Athletics continues some exciting firsts:

- Softball beat South Florida on March 20, 10-4, our first top-25 win.
- Baseball beat the University of Minnesota 6-0 on April 19.
- Fifth-year senior pitcher, Graham Laubscher, was named national pitcher of the week and Summit League pitcher of the week on April 12, after logging a shutout victory over North Dakota State with a career-best 15 strikeouts.

All 550 student-athletes will celebrate their first year at the Division I level with the “**Tommie Choice Awards**” on **Monday, May 9**. These awards, selected by student-athletes for student-athletes, will recognize accomplishments across all four dimensions of comprehensive excellence – classroom, community, character, and competition.

Women's Track & Field will celebrate retiring Head Coach Joe Sweeney at our last home track meet of the year, the Tommie Twilight, on Wednesday, May 4. This will mark Coach Sweeney's 42nd year at the helm of the women's cross country, track & field programs.

Looking to next Fall, we have signed more than 125 student-athletes with an average GPA of 3.75 and look forward to what our new recruits will bring!

Promote and Leverage Our Comprehensive Academic Excellence



We are leveraging our top 100 ranking as a US News “Best Value” school in our messaging and marketing. We ranked the top school in Minnesota in this assessment that compares academic quality to the net cost of attendance.

Other key rankings are also being leveraged:

- For the first time, the School of Education graduate program was nationally ranked by US News. We are the #2 program in Minnesota, behind only the University of Minnesota.
- The Opus College of Business part-time MBA moved into the top 100 in US News graduate rankings.
- The Schulze School of Entrepreneurship advanced ten spots – to No. 23 from 33 – in the latest Princeton Review rankings of undergraduate entrepreneurship programs and is the #1 ranked such program at a Catholic university, the #1 in Minnesota, and #3 nationally among universities with less than 10,000 undergraduates.
- The part-time MBA program was ranked #83 by U.S. News & World Report's Best Grad Schools list and remains the #2 such program in Minnesota.
- The undergraduate business program rose 22 spots in the 2022 Poets & Quants rankings, from #88 to #66

- St. Thomas Law had the 37th best employment outcomes in the nation, beating Notre Dame and Boston College, and within a percentage point of Harvard, Stanford and Georgetown.

Expand Pathways through the Dougherty Family College



There are currently 75 incoming students confirmed to join the Fall 2022 class at Dougherty Family College (DFC). This Spring, 16 outstanding scholars from DFC were selected as recipients of full tuition scholarships made possible through the Ryan/Sterbenz Estate and Gene and Mary Frey, to continue toward their four-year degrees at St. Thomas. On May 2, we gathered to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of 35 DFC alumni from the DFC classes of 2019 and 2020 who are graduating this Spring with baccalaureate degrees from St. Thomas. The group included representatives from 23 different majors. Eight of the students are graduating with honors.

Prepare Educators to Dismantle Disparities



The School of Education continues to work on the design of the lab school with Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS). Discussions around best practices for a lab school, community needs, the vision and mission for the school, the challenges and concerns of creating a lab school, the two organizations' strengths, and the design of the school are underway. Feedback is being solicited from SPPS teachers, administrators, leaders as well as School of Education faculty, staff, and leadership. This summer, the team will establish the mission, vision, design, and management of the school using an equity framework.

Create a Robust Residency Culture



Next fall, we will have a *record* number of Tommies living on campus as we fully implement our residency requirement for freshman and sophomore students! As of this week, 2,800 students are confirmed to live on campus. For some comparisons, our on-campus housing occupancy in 1991 was 1,399. In 1998 with the addition of Morrison Hall we saw occupancy jump to 1,878. In 2005, with the addition of Flynn Hall, it jumped again to 2,376. In 2010, it reached 2,500 for the first time, and in 2018 we were at 2,556.

As our community grows, our residency culture is deepening in impact. Our incoming first-year students are currently signing up to be part of one of our 12 Living-Learning Communities (LLC) or Theme-Based Learning Community (TBLC) including our newest LLC for nursing. It continues to be a priority to ensure that the residency experience is accessible to all students. Thanks to generous housing scholarships, including the new Frey scholarship, we are keeping the residency exceptions to a minimum. For example, there are currently 70 exceptions total among second-year students.