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# SAINTS CONNECTION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS



## LEADERSHIP GIVING SOCIETY

Established in 2023, the Saints Leadership Giving Society recognizes the generous benefactors who make leadership-level annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Saints Community Fund within the school calendar year (July 1 – June 30). Gifts to the Saints Community Fund directly support our operational budget, ensuring that students are provided meaningful opportunities in the classroom, through Campus Ministry, on the stage, and on the court and field - all in pursuit of discovering and developing their God-given gifts.

We are deeply grateful for the individuals who faithfully support our Catholic mission and share in our commitment to forming Saints.

Members of the Saints Leadership Giving Society are honored each spring at a special reception celebrating their philanthropic leadership and lasting impact on our school community.

**One Gift, One School. One Changed Life! Donate Today!**



## From Aquinas to Industry Leader

Courtney Bollig Clark, '12

With nearly a decade of experience as a government relations and political professional, Courtney Clark has represented America's most iconic and beloved brands before the federal government, shaping public policy to allow businesses to grow and thrive.

Throughout her career, Courtney has helped large public and private companies navigate complex legislative and regulatory processes to deliver safe and affordable products that consumers know and love. She currently leads federal government relations for The Hershey Company, advancing key policy priorities while advocating for Hershey's 10,000 U.S. employees, indulgent candy brands, and fast-growing salty snacks portfolio.

Courtney relies on her deep policy expertise, nuanced understanding of the political process, and strong interpersonal skills to cultivate trusted relationships with government stakeholders, trade associations, and coalitions. She is adept at navigating large organizations with strong brand recognition and has

extensive experience working cross-functionally to drive strategy and protect brand integrity. Utilizing these strengths, Courtney continues to secure significant policy victories in support of long-term business objectives.

Committed to developing the next generation of leaders, Courtney is an active member and volunteer in professional development organizations including Women in Government Relations, the Women's Congressional Golf Association, and her national sorority, Alpha Chi Omega. She is also an avid sports fan and can regularly be found cheering on her hometown Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas Jayhawks.

Courtney was just promoted to Senior Manager of Federal Government Relations!



## Saints Take the Leap: Brett Doherty & McClain Schieltz, '24, Turn “Impossible” Into Impact

When Brett Doherty and McClain Schieltz, proud alumni of Saint Thomas Aquinas High School, arrived at University of Mississippi, they were not planning to launch a business. Like most college students, they were focused on classes, friendships, and navigating campus life. But sometimes the best ideas come from the most ordinary frustrations.

Late nights in Oxford often ended the same way. Long lines. Limited options. Nothing available on campus after 8 p.m. Instead of accepting it as part of college life, Brett and McClain began asking questions. What if they could bring food directly to students? Even more, what if students could use their meal swipes to purchase it?

The idea felt bold and maybe even unrealistic. But when they reached out to Ole Miss Dining and realized the concept might actually work, curiosity turned into conviction.

Ironically, the push they needed did not come from overwhelming encouragement. It came from doubt.

The first two people they told said it would be extremely challenging, if not impossible, to start. Those words could have ended the dream before it began. Instead, they created motivation. Brett and McClain leaned in and committed to proving that it could be done. In a full circle moment, once they secured their first contract with the university, those same individuals became two of their biggest supporters.

When the truck officially opened, reality arrived quickly. No class, business plan, or entrepreneurship lecture could have prepared them for the chaos of opening week. Hundreds of orders poured in. They worked five straight days their first week and quickly felt exhausted.

They admitted they did not understand how intense it would be when so many orders came in at once.

## SUPPORTING ALUMNI

Two college students running a high demand food truck at night was not sustainable. So they adapted. They hired additional help. They created systems. They learned to delegate. Most importantly, they figured out how to balance academics, business responsibilities, and personal life. Those exhausting first weeks became their greatest education.

While entrepreneurship courses provided helpful background, their most important lessons came from experience and from something even earlier than college. Both Brett and McClain worked jobs in high school before becoming business owners. That perspective shaped how they lead today.

They learned that taking care of employees is essential. Many people start companies without ever having worked as an employee themselves. Brett and McClain understood what it felt like to be on the other side, and that understanding influences how they run their business.

They remain present at the truck. They check in with employees. They answer phone calls. They stay involved. Leadership for them is personal and active. What began as a single truck solving a late night problem is now becoming something much larger. Conversations with mentors at the Ole Miss Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship encouraged them to think beyond one location. Could this grow? Could it expand into multiple company stores? Could franchising become a reality?

An Aramark award they received earlier this year helped build momentum and brought attention from outside investors. The idea that once felt impossible is now gaining serious traction.

Through it all, success has not changed who they are. It has strengthened it. They enjoy seeing familiar faces around the city and meeting students and adults who recognize the business. Some of the most meaningful moments are simple conversations at the window with regular customers. At its core, their business is about serving people. If they could offer advice to current Saints sitting on an idea of their own, it would be clear and direct. An idea is just an idea until you act on it.

Too many great ideas never move forward because someone says they will not work or because the process feels overwhelming. Brett and McClain understand that feeling. They had the idea in November 2024 but did not officially form the business until April 2025. They took their time. They worked through challenges one problem at a time. They did not rush the process.

From the halls of Saint Thomas Aquinas to the campus of Ole Miss, Brett Doherty and McClain Schieltz are proof that being told something is impossible can be the very thing that pushes you forward. For these two Saints, doubt did not stop the dream. It strengthened their resolve and helped turn an idea into something real.



## Wigs Out We ALL hate cancer, right? Your help would mean the WORLD

We are bringing back Wigs Out at Saint Thomas Aquinas. Beginning this year, this powerful tradition will take place every two years in support of those who have fought and continue to fight their battle with cancer.

Every one of us knows someone impacted by this disease. Now, as a Saints community, we can do something about it.

On March 11, we are asking our entire Aquinas family — past, present, and future — to show up ready to donate eight inches of hair. You do not have to be a current student to participate. Highlighted hair is welcome. Anyone can donate. Professional hairstylists will be on site to provide haircuts.

Together, we can make someone's world a little brighter. We hope to see you there.

[Sign up here:](#)



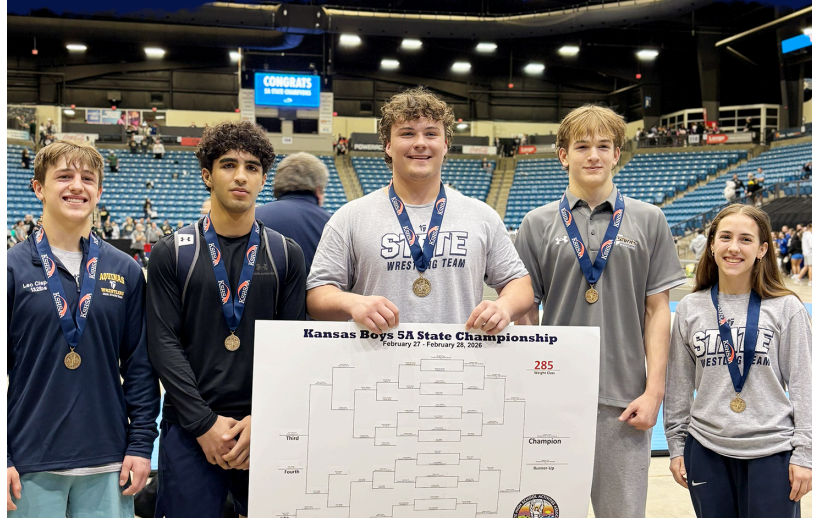
# STATE CHAMP 2026



KANSAS 5A  
**STEPHEN  
CARROLL**  
285 lb

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

# SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS KANSAS 5A STATE WRESTLING 2026



# 3rd PLACE



**HANK KOLICH**  
2026 KANSAS 5A 157 lbs

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

# 5th PLACE

*1ST GIRL  
WRESTLER  
IN AQUINAS  
HISTORY!*



**KEILA CISPER**  
2026 KANSAS 5A 105 lbs

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

# 3rd PLACE



**KYLE GREWAL**  
2026 KANSAS 5A 144 lbs

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

# 6th PLACE



**LEO  
CISPER**  
2026 KANSAS 5A  
132 lbs

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

REUNIONS

TIME TO PLAN YOUR REUNION!

EVENTS

Click this link  
for fun, food and  
MONEY!

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
@Aquinas  
setup 6:15 PM



Purchase your raffle tickets to donate to our Endowment! You also get an opportunity to win alumni donated items!