

# THE BELL TOWER

SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY MONTHLY STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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## Unionizing efforts at Saint Martin's University

**Dalia Pedro Trujillo**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The Faculty Organizing Committee believe that outside help is needed in order to create changes in regard to faculty compensation and budget transparency. Roughly 70 individuals gathered at the Lacey Timberland Library on Thursday, April 7, to learn about the recent union organizing efforts taking place at Saint Martin's University (SMU). The event was moderated by David Price, professor of sociology and anthropology, Heather Grob, associate professor of business, J.J. Lee, engineering instructor, and Shawn Newman, business instructor, who answered various questions about what it means to unionize.

Grob and Price, both tenured faculty, explained how faculty salaries are a driving force in their attempts to unionize, while stressing their commitment to the SMU community.

"I am interested in having a union at Saint Martin's for a number of reasons, the most significant is dealing with pay issues for staff, pay issues for tenured faculty, pay issues for contingent faculty, sometimes called adjunct faculty. I know the institution can

### SMU FACULTY UNION Q+A SESSION!

All faculty (regular and contingent) and students are encouraged to attend!

Thursday, April 7th 4-5pm Lacey Timberland Library

Hosted by: Saint Martin's Faculty Union Organizing Committee



Photo courtesy of SMU Faculty Organizing Committee

"Forming a union simply means coming together as a faculty to negotiate the terms of our employment at this University. We believe that collective bargaining is an important next step in the evolution of shared governance at Saint Martin's, a way to stand up for what we're worth, demand inclusion in policymaking process, and claim a voice for quality education."

Saint Martin's Faculty Union Organizing Committee

SMU Faculty Union flyers were placed around campus during the past week.

do better. I enjoy working at Saint Martin's, I have worked here for a long time, it's very much my community. I think we are at a point where we need outside help, and there's nothing wrong with asking for outside help.

This is an internal organization. It's faculty and staff are trying to find ways to amplify our voice," said Price.

There were a number of questions about what it means to unionize. While no specifics were detailed, panelists emphasized that as a union, faculty and staff

would have access to collective bargaining rights and a place at the negotiating table, making decisions about the budget. This is something that the panelists feel they are not currently able to take part in.

Additional concerns were raised about whether increasing pay for faculty and staff would come at the cost of raising student's tuition.

Panelists answered that the first place to start should be the budget. They acknowledged that there is no magic pile of money to draw from, but that if faculty and staff have a say in the budgeting process, money could be allocated differently.

see Unions page D2

## Annual Lu'au offers entertaining and authentic Hawaiian experience

**Regina Reed**  
*Staff Writer*

After a warm and sunny afternoon, Olympia and Saint Martin's students and Olympia residents headed to the SMU's Marcus Pavilion for a Hawaiian experience. Hui O' Hawai'i's (SMU's Hawaiian club) Annual Lu'au took place on Saturday, April 9, drawing a crowd clad in floral shirts, dresses and skirts. Over fifty tables covered the floor, and the event gathered enough people to fill them all.

Jaime Rosenberg, President of Hui O' Hawai'i, explained how much hard work goes into the Lu'au each year.

"It takes so much time and planning. We literally start planning the next Lu'au

the meeting after the previous Lu'au has ended. It's a year process," Rosenberg explained.

The activities planned for

Lu'au souvenirs, a photo booth, raffle drawings and a shave ice station. The shave ice, which Rosenberg said was a new addition this

for the evening. Some waited in line for over half an hour in anticipation of the cold treat. Each attendee's ticket included a voucher for one shaved ice, and people could be seen walking, talking or sitting everywhere with their colorful ice in hand.

Anna Belford, a SMU Junior, was a first time attendee of the Lu'au. She observed the crowded room and Lu'au scene saying, "Yeah, it's really impressive."

Belford had never attended an authentic Lu'au in Hawaii either, but said that she wished she had.

see Lu'au page F1



Authentic Hawaiian treats were sold at the lu'au in a country store.

the first part of the evening included a Keiki Booth to keep children entertained, a "country store" to buy

year, was in high demand, with the line stretching the length of the pavilion until the station was shut down

### Brussels



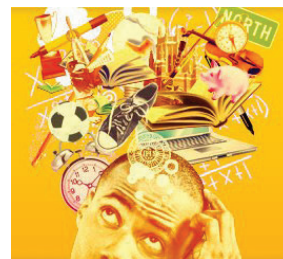
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**\*Role of the adviser**  
*The adviser is a journalist, educator, and manager who is, above all, a role model. The adviser’s ultimate goal is to mold, preserve and protect an ethical and educational environment, not to monitor the final content of the student newspaper.*

## Editor’s note

Hello Saint Martin’s Community!

This has been a very exciting semester for The Belltower. We have been working tirelessly to ensure that our paper is of the best quality it can be, and it has been a learning experience for us all. With every issue, we discover new things that we need to work on, and find ways to streamline our process to become more efficient.

We are always looking for ways to make our paper more exciting and relevant for students, and the best way we can do that is by hearing from them. We will be sending out an online survey to students, staff and faculty soon in the hopes that we can include more of the things that our community wants from the paper. Be looking in your SMU email for the survey soon.

This issue of The Belltower includes some very relevant and timely articles. World issues such as the attack on Brussels and the presidential elections are addressed, as well coverage of events happening on campus.

This issue also features an article on the Faculty Unionization Q & A session that occurred on April 7. The unionization efforts on campus affect faculty, staff, administration and students alike. The Belltower feels that it is very important for everyone to be aware of what is happening in terms of the efforts. We hope to continue covering this topic in a fair manner that takes into consideration all parties involved.

There is only one issue left of The Belltower, which will come out on April 25. As always, we hope everyone will consider sending in articles about things that are important to them. In addition, as it will be our last issue of the year, we greatly encourage seniors to send in articles letting their community know what their plans will be after graduation and giving their final thoughts on their time at Saint Martin’s. If you want to send in an article, please email it to [belltoweratsmu@gmail.com](mailto:belltoweratsmu@gmail.com) by Monday, April 18. Feel free to include a professional picture of yourself for the article as well.

Our goal at The Belltower has always been to give our readers up-to-date and valuable information as well as keeping our community informed. We will continue this goal as our paper continues, and we will never stop trying to better ourselves as writers, editors, photographers and layout staff. We are grateful for all who pick up and read our paper. Readers are just as important to the paper as those who produce it, for without people to report to, there would be no reason to report.

Sincerely,  
Roslyn Buff  
Section Editor

### Our Mission

*As fellow students at Saint Martin’s Univeristy, our staff is constantly working to keep you up-to-date on what is going on around campus, our community and throughout the world. Our newspaper will provide information that is valuable to our campus and especially to students at SMU. We will never back down form taking on any issue at our school and promise to give our best efforts to keep the community informed.*

### Are you interested in writing for The Belltower?

**We are accepting articles from student freelance writers. If you see something newsworthy, turn it into a story. If we print it, you will be paid for it.**

**For questions, comments, applications, submissions, or suggestions, send an email to [belltower@stmartin.edu](mailto:belltower@stmartin.edu),**

**Or drop a note under the door of the newsroom, HH 200**

### Guest Submissions Policy

**Have an opinion about something you would like to write about? Consider sending an article to The Belltower. If you or someone you know would like to be a guest writer, submit articles to [belltower@stmartin.edu](mailto:belltower@stmartin.edu) for consideration.**

## Content Policy

- All advertising must be consistent with Benedictine ideals, values, and teachings; i.e. it cannot condone or promote abortion services, reproduction services, sperm banks, contraceptives, or tobacco products.
- Advertising which denotes sexist or racist overtones, suggests violence and discrimination towards others on the basis of character, race, religion, sexual orientation, or sex in its message, content or program format cannot be approved.
- References to the promotion of drug use/paraphernalia, their prices, and/or prejudicial messages are not allowed.

## Advertising Policy

1. The Belltower has the right to reject advertising from any company, individual, organizations, or advertising agency that discriminates on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, creed, disability or ethnic origin, or directly conflicts with The Belltower or Benedictine values.
2. The Belltower will accept any advertising that does not conflict with Catholic ethics, or the aims and goals of Saint Martin’s University. See content policy below.
3. The Belltower reserves the right to refuse any advertising it feels to be of questionable moral character, or which is not being presented in good faith by the advertiser.
4. The Belltower reserves the right to refuse any advertisement deemed as being possibly libelous.
5. The name of the sponsoring organization or group must be indicated, along with the nature of the event, the date and time, the location, cost (but not of alcohol), and a contact number for more information.

## Ad Rates

Size	Price per issue (B/W)	Price per issue w/ discount* (B/W)	Color cost per issue
1/8 of page	\$25	\$22.50	+30
1/4 of page	\$45	\$40.50	+55
1/2 of page	\$85	\$76.50	+105
1 page	\$160	\$146.00	+205

*\* The semester discount is valid only if the purchaser agrees to buy an ad space in the majority of the issues released during the semester.*

# World news at a glance

Denver Garcia  
Staff Writer

## Panama Papers exposes tax havens

By far the biggest news story to come out this month is the leaking of the Panama Papers, which showed that numerous powerful figures have offshore bank accounts with assistance from the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca. Most of those involved in the scandal had an account in order to stash away assets without fear of taxation in their home country, but Mossack Fonseca has also been known to launder money for more nefarious enterprises such as the drug trade, arms dealing and sex trafficking. A small group of investigative journalists became aware of these activities last year, but waited until now to expose them in order to have time to develop stories about those implicated. Iceland's Prime Minister Sigmundur Gunlaugsson was revealed to be involved and a large protest in Reykjavik urged for him to resign, which he did. Over 11 million documents have been leaked as part of the Panama Papers, with 214,000 clients from around 60 countries have been revealed so far. Edward Snowden, former CIA employee, has said this is the biggest confidential documents leak in history.



Photos courtesy of creativecommons.org

Iceland's Prime Minister Sigmundur Gunlaugsson

## Amnesty granted to political prisoners in Myanmar

State Councilor of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi, has vowed to grant mass amnesty for political prisoners. For almost 40 years, Myanmar was ruled by an isolationist military junta that synthesized Communism with Buddhist elements. Little contact with the outside world was allowed and all dissent was swiftly crushed. Kyi spent 21 years under house arrest for organizing pro-democracy marches. She was finally released in 2010 and the regime fell the following year, but many political prisoners have remained in custody. While in custody, Kyi was barred from holding the presidency, but a close friend has been her proxy. If the amnesty is granted, it will be a major step forward for Myanmar's political climate.



## Joe Medicine Crow dies

On April 3, Joe Medicine Crow, the last Native American War Chief, died at the age of 103. Medicine Crow was a well-known academic who authored numerous books on the Plains Indians, especially his tribe the Crow Nation. During WWII, he served in the European theater, where he earned the distinction of becoming the last war chief. To become a war chief, one must complete four tasks: counting coup (striking an enemy without killing them and then escaping), killing an enemy with their own weapon, stealing a horse, and leading their war party in a successful battle. After the war, Medicine Crow returned to the Crow reservation, where he held a number of seats in tribal government and did anthropological field work. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009.



## Pakistan devastated by floods

Flash flooding in northern Pakistan has killed 63 people and injured at least 30 more. The floods were triggered by seasonal torrential downpour, but flash flooding in the region does not usually occur until the summer monsoons. Last year, flash floods killed over 80 people. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region was most heavily affected by the floods and numerous villages near water sources needed to evacuate to safer areas. Many of these villages could be destroyed due to cheap building materials and minimal infrastructure. The rainfall has largely ended, but over 100,000 people are still in flood relief camps.



## Peruvians protest presidential elections

It is currently election season in Peru and many people are protesting as Keiko Fujimori, daughter of former President Alberto Fujimori, is leading in the polls. Alberto was originally popular for his economic reforms and defeat of the Shining Path terrorist organization, but he is currently serving a 25 year prison sentence for a wide range of offenses. Most of these are human rights concerns, such as authorizing death squads and the involuntary sterilization of indigenous women, as well as more mundane corruption schemes. Many Peruvians are not happy with Keiko wanting to follow her father's footsteps, and there have been suspicions about the fact that two other candidates have been disqualified over technicalities. The protests occurred in five different cities on April 5, a day Peruvians use annually to march against the crimes of the Fujimori administration.



## Evidence of Viking settlement found in Canada

A team of archaeologists in Canada have found evidence of a Viking settlement in Pont Rosee, Newfoundland. To date, the only verified Viking settlement found in North America has been the thousand year old site at L'Anse Aux Meadows, on the other side of Newfoundland. The settlement at L'Anse Aux Meadows was believed to be the farthest western Viking settlement, until the artifacts were discovered in Pont Rosee. Remnants of earthenware walls have been uncovered, along with an iron forging workshop. No tools or artifacts have been found yet, though wood usually rotted away and the Vikings usually melted worn out iron to recycle into new items. While there have been various Norse artifacts found in North America, finding an entire settlement could very well rewrite the history of Norse exploration. Digging will resume in the summer and the archaeologists hope to discover more evidence of settlement.





# Hopeful nominees fight for delegates

**Luke Richmond**  
Staff Writer

The current status of the presidential race has been one filled with bumps and pot holes along the way. Both parties have been competing for delegates in primaries across the country, and the race to be the party nominee has been filled with much struggling and dueling to pick up needed delegates in each primary. Although there has been controversy within the Republican Party, many have been focused on the Democratic Party because of the high attention each candidate has been getting.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, wife of former President Bill Clinton, is a defined front-runner with more popular delegates and more super delegate votes. A super delegate is a nominated official within the Democratic Party who is given the right to vote for whichever nominee they choose. This has created controversy for Sen. Bernie Sanders' supporters, who claim the Clinton campaign has been disingenuous with garnering super

delegate votes that do not reflect the views of the popular election.

The Sanders campaign won the state of Alaska, with 82 percent over Hillary's 18 percent, yet super delegates from the state still chose to pledge their vote to Clinton. This gives rise to disappointment among citizen voters who feel as if they are victims of the misrepresentation. They believe they are not being treated fairly by those who they elected to represent them on a state level.

Sanders has been doing well despite his previous losses to Clinton. Winning by more than 70 percent in some states—such as the aforementioned Alaska, as well as Washington, Idaho and Utah—has shifted momentum in his campaign, momentum that he may need to secure the Democratic nomination. Washington is a predominantly Democratic state. Sanders remains ideologically linked to the young liberal voters comprising Washington, giving him an advantage over Clinton's campaign. Sanders won the Washington democratic caucus with 72 percent of the vote, gaining

25 delegates, while Hillary only gained 9.<sup>1</sup> Clinton's campaign still has the chance to win important states. Clinton commands a vast advantage in the number of voters she has been able to attain. She is shown to poll well with minority voters, and thus holds an advantage in eastern states such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. These are examples of powerful industrial cities, where voters identify more with Clinton than Sanders.

As for the Republican nomination, Donald Trump leads the Republican primaries with a total of 743 delegates, while Sen. Ted Cruz follows behind with 532 delegates and Gov. John Kasich with 143 delegates.<sup>1</sup> The most recent Republican primaries took place in Arizona, Utah, and Wisconsin. Trump swept the Arizona primary, gaining all 58 delegates, while Cruz took all 40 delegates in Utah. Trump lost big to Cruz in Wisconsin, gaining only 6 delegates compared to Cruz's 36. New York's upcoming primary on April 19 offers Republican candidates 95 delegates. In the latest poll compiled by Huffington

Post, Trump is projected to win the state of New York, with 55 percent, while Kasich comes in second with 21 percent.<sup>2</sup>

There are still many delegates left up for grabs in upcoming primaries, so voters in many states still have a chance to cast their ballots for who they think should win the Republican or Democrat nomination. The Washington State deadline for voting in the upcoming Republican primary is May 16.

For more information or to learn about each party, visit the following websites.

Republican Party primaries: GOP.com

Democratic Party primaries: democrats.org

Registering to vote in Washington State: <https://weiapplets.sos.wa.gov/MyVote/#/login>

#### Sources:

1 <http://www.politico.com/2016-election/results/delegate-count-tracker>

2 <http://elections.huffingtonpost.com/pollster/2016-new-york-presidential-republican-primary>

## Working together to keep prescription drugs off our streets

**Jamie Escobar**  
of GraysHarborTalk.com

*Editor's Note: This article was reprinted from GraysHarborTalk.com, which featured two Saint Martin's nursing students who are actively involved in a Grays Harbor community project.*

According to the 2014 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, 11 percent of 12th grade students in Grays Harbor County reported the use of prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them within a one-month period. A dangerous perception reported by these kids is a meager 29 percent response indicating the belief that there is low risk of harm in the use of prescription drugs not prescribed to them.

According to a trend report published by the University of Washington's Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute, publicly funded treatment admissions and crime lab cases involving opiates have increased 194.1 percent and 217.9 percent,

respectively, in studies conducted 2002-2004 to 2011-2013 in our county.

The opiate problem in Grays Harbor is not going away. Nationally, the U.S. Senate just passed a significant bill to bolster drug treatment and prevention. Part of this bill will encourage the proper disposal of prescription drugs to help keep them from being illegally diverted and also to help keep them out of the hands of vulnerable youth.

A drug take back box is something that the Hoquiam Police and Montesano Police Departments already provide. MyTOWN Coalition partners with Hoquiam Police Department to increase awareness and utilization of this service. Both departments accept controlled, legal substances as well as any outdated or unused prescriptions. These medications are routinely transferred to a licensed incineration facility for safe disposal.

Saint Martin's University nursing students Christina Rager and Vickie Spivey, both residents of Grays Harbor,

are doing their part to support the program. The students are dedicating time and effort as part of their public outreach and population health project. Both Rager and Spivey are graduates of Grays Harbor College's registered nurse program and will soon be graduating with a bachelor's of science in nursing from Saint Martin's University. They are working to educate the community about environmental, community and personal health reasons people should consider when disposing of their medications – with emphasis on a "Safe Community for Everyone."

Rager and Spivey are working diligently to spread the word throughout our county that this resource is available locally. The current publicity efforts include posters and brochures they intend to deliver to senior centers, assisted living facilities, eye doctors, physicians and dentists to name a few.

Not realizing the potential dangers, people often forget about their old prescriptions. Unlocked or undisposed of, they may fall into the hands of those that shouldn't have them. It is also important to consider not only medication being taken with the intention of being abused, but also possible unintentional drug interactions when mixing old or outdated prescriptions and new prescriptions. A periodic audit by a pharmacist or physician of all current prescriptions and possible drug interactions would be prudent.

The key concerns with prescription drugs are not only personal safety, but also environmental concerns that may be created from



Vickie Spivey (left) and Christina Rager (right) are nursing students at Saint Martin's University, supporting the program.

improper disposal. While some prescriptions may seem benign, many of these end up in our water supply and can't be effectively removed.

We each have an opportunity to be part of the solution by helping to create awareness and utilization of programs like these and to make sure that we are taking all necessary precautions. The Food and Drug Administration provides additional information on the safe disposal of these substances.

Drop boxes are available locally at the following locations:

**Hoquiam Police Department**  
Daily, Available 24 hours  
215 10th Street  
Hoquiam, WA 98550

**Montesano Police Department**  
Monday—Friday,  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
112 North Main Street  
Montesano, WA 98563



Instead of forgetting about your old prescriptions, deposit them in a drug take back box in Hoquiam or Montesano.



## The student becomes the teacher: Kyle Smith spotlight

**Katherine Pecora**  
Staff Writer

Walk into Kyle Smith's office at Saint Martin's University (SMU) and you are guaranteed to find two things: A Seahawks logo and an enthusiastic professor. As a former SMU student, Smith has become Professor Smith at his old stomping ground.

Smith grew up in Salem, Oregon and moved up to Saint Martin's in the fall of 2007 to play basketball for the Saints. He graduated from SMU in 2011, and went on to pursue his master's degree through Washington State University (WSU), with an emphasis on teaching. This was an opportunity that helped Smith learn higher-level math as well as learn how to teach this information to others.

During his time at WSU, Smith was also a teacher's assistant for various classes, but it was long before this that Smith took an interest in teaching. In his sophomore year at Saint Martin's, Smith began

tutoring through the Learning and Writing Center. It was this natural feeling that made teaching his passion and focus.

"Working with students that were previously getting C's and D's and being able to see the 'light bulb' moment, then help get them up to A's and B's is incredibly rewarding," said Smith. It was these types of situations that pushed Smith to not only become a teacher, but a teacher that leaves a lasting effect on his students. Smith strives to create a healthy and positive learning environment so his students are not afraid to learn higher level math. He was asked to come teach at Saint Martin's as an adjunct professor just after he finished his master's degree at WSU.

Smith teaches math to his students in a fresh and unique way. Many students feel that math can be intimidating and tough to grasp at the college level in just one semester. He also finds that many students come into college with a negative view of mathematics, which he attributes to

the way some students have been taught in the past. To help students understand the work and keep them continually challenged, he encourages them to remain involved in their process, working through problems and slowly increasing the level of difficulty.

"I encourage my students to make mistakes and to learn from them. I only penalize them for the size of the mistake," he said.

Smith pushes his students to work hard and embrace the little mishaps.

First-year student, Isabel Badillo, has studied under professor Smith for two semesters.

"I enjoy the structure of his classes and that he always has a plan, his explanations of the material are very helpful and he challenges his

students to push themselves—but also to learn to enjoy math," Badillo said.

Real enjoyment of course material is an important aspect of teaching for Smith and this enjoyment translates to his teaching style.

Nominated for the Outstanding Faculty award for 2016, Smith has shown his passion for teaching school-wide. His students appreciate the caring and enthusiastic energy he brings to the classroom.



Kyle Smith poses with Kam Chancellor of the Seattle Seahawks.

Photo courtesy of Kyle Smith

## Various factors weigh into students' choice of college

**Roslyn Buff**  
Section Editor

On Saturday, April 2, Saint Martin's University hosted a slew of potential new students. The Admitted Student Reception, held by the Office of Admissions, took place in the Norman Worthington Conference Center (NWCC) from 12:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

The event honored and celebrated students from all around the country who had applied and been accepted to Saint Martin's. The Admitted Student Reception provided an opportunity for those who had not yet seen the campus to do so, and also for students and parents to gain more information about the school itself and the enrollment process in the hopes that they will ultimately pick Saint Martin's as their college of choice.

The NWCC was transformed into a place for students to meet and mingle with others, as multiple tables were set up around the space. Students and their families chose seats and were dispersed intermittently around the room, getting the chance to talk with other students who were considering Saint Martin's.

There are a lot of factors to take into consideration when choosing

a college. For Tiffany Potts, who hopes to become a biology major, one of the main factors is the atmosphere of the school. She noted that Saint Martin's has a good atmosphere that she enjoys. She is also very interested in the ability to play sports at the school. The Admitted Student Reception is not the first time that she has been to campus, however. Jim Brewer, track and field and cross country head coach, showed her around earlier this year. Potts is also considering the University of Idaho because of its cheaper tuition fees.

For Kera Anderson, who is also considering Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) as a potential college, the academic programs were particularly important. The academic programs of Saint Martin's were ultimately what attracted her to the school, and is also the reason why she is considering PLU.

Some students already felt confident in their decision, however. Bryce McCormick, hopeful mechanical engineering major, already knew that Saint Martin's was going to be his pick for college. He really enjoyed the small college feel of Saint Martin's, as well as the opportunity to play intramural sports.

Hannah Snow from Snohomish, Wash., was very excited by the

peaceful and welcoming feeling of Saint Martin's. She really enjoyed the feeling of community she experienced at the school. Her brother Connor has hopes of majoring in mechanical engineering and was very excited for the campus tour at the end of the day so that he could see the new Cebula Hall engineering building.

Connor's father mentioned a few state schools Connor was considering such as Washington State University. Prices of the institutions was clearly very important to the family. Both Hannah and Connor were nominated for the Benedictine Scholars Program, however, which helps to cut the cost of tuition.

Many other students mentioned that cost would be a big factor in their ultimate decision, a point on which many parents nodded in agreement.

The event was aimed toward preparing the students to make their final choice, and remind both students and parents of what Saint Martin's has to offer. The students were all hoping to get something different out of the experience. McCormick wanted to figure out what the next steps to enrolling would be, while Hannah, still undecided on her major, was hoping to gain more information on the various

academic programs offered at the school. Potts was very excited to get a sweatshirt, but was also hoping to learn how to enroll for classes.

Students heard presentations from Alyssa Nastasi, assistant director of Career Services; Geoffrey Brown, disability support coordinator; Rico Picone, Ph.D., from the School of Engineering; Mary Jo Hartman, Ph.D., from the College of Arts and Sciences; Steve Sierra, Ph.D., from the College of Education and Professional Psychology; and Donald Conant, Ph.D., of the School of Business.

Pamela Holsinger-Fuchs, Ph.D., dean of enrollment, also spoke at the event. She welcomed students to campus and informed them all that just for attending the event, they would be receiving a \$400 "visit" scholarship. She also congratulated them on being one of the most academically prepared classes to enroll at Saint Martin's.

The event provided valuable information for all of the prospective Saints. The next step for these students, if they decide on SMU as their college, will be to put down a deposit and register for classes. The first day of classes for both incoming and returning Saints will be Aug. 29.

We are  
looking to  
hire staff for  
next year!

check out the  
"work for us" page  
on our website at  
[www.belltowersmu.org](http://www.belltowersmu.org)



# Women in STEM: Bonnie Amende, Ph.D.

**Cleo Pineda**  
*Staff Writer*

Many students view college as their path to achieving their career goals. For others, like Bonnie Amende, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics, it was both the path and the destination. Amende earned her bachelors of science in mathematics at the University of Wyoming, and later transferred to the University of Portland to finish her Ph.D. She now teaches in the mathematics department at Saint Martin's University, teaching a wide variety of classes that include the calculus series and linear algebra.

"I was always drawn to math and science as a kid. I liked the logical nature of those disciplines. But I don't think I became really passionate about mathematics until I was an undergraduate and started teaching in the calculus computer labs. I really like the joy I feel when I solve a difficult problem or when I see the light bulb turn on in the brain of a student I am teaching," Amende said.

Amende went on to describe her initial desire to teach.

"My first taste of it—I needed a job to make money. The University

of Wyoming was hiring teaching assistants for the computer labs for the calculus classes. My undergraduate advisor hired me for one of these positions and I really never turned back from the path towards teaching since then," said Amende.

Pursuing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) has afforded Amende the opportunity to do what she loves—solving math problems is, in fact, an extension of her pleasure solving puzzles.

Apart from teaching, Amende also invests much of her time in encouraging and exposing youth to STEM fields. As the advisor for the University's Math Club, she works with students in developing programs for the local Boys and Girls Club.

"So many students find doing math to be a chore. I find math to be extremely beautiful and if I can convince just one student of the importance and, or beauty of math that I see, I think it is well worth it," Amende said.

She has faith that increasing interest in math

and science based learning will make for a brighter future.

"I think that the ability to reason transcends the classroom and the solving of one math problem. If everyone could approach a problem-

solving with a mathematical mind, I think the world would be a much better rational and beautiful place," she added.

The things that Amende treasures most about her career include the many opportunities offered

to educators that involve helping shape one's character.

Her proudest achievements include building relationships with her students and fostering the kind of ideas that help guide them to where they want to be.

"My experience working with Dr. Amende the last two years has been eye opening and fulfilling. She challenges her students to go beyond their limits and stretch their abilities. I've learned so much about mathematics from her but I've also gained an even deeper appreciation for the subject. She brings a genuine passion for mathematics to the classroom and attempts to show her students how beautiful math can be. She is a wonderful and kind professor who really cares about her students," said Samantha Meek, junior mathematics major.

In return, Amende plays an integral part in creating the next generation of engineers, computer scientists, mathematicians, and teachers like herself. It fulfills her and adds meaning to her job.

"When I connect with a student and see how I am able to affect their lives in a positive way, it touches me deeply and means more to me on a daily basis than anything else," she said.



Photo courtesy of Bonnie Amende

## ASSMU meetings resume after spring break and advising day

**Michael Overfield**  
*Staff Writer*

The student council met again on March 24 and March 31 at 11 a.m. after two weeks of no meetings due to spring break and advising day. Because of the numerous items on the agenda at the March 24 meeting, the student council officers and senators were encouraged to give their reports only if they were of utmost importance. With the academic year drawing to a close, the council reminded clubs who want to be considered for funding to submit their requests as soon as possible so a budget report for the year may be completed. The campus life report included announcements for upcoming events and stated that a new director of campus life will be in office by April 20. Following the condensed reports, the many memorandums that built up over the previous weeks were reviewed.

The first request was made by Teresa Winstead, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology and cultural anthropology, who wanted to take six students to Vancouver, Wash., for an anthropology conference.

"I can't just go and not bring students," said Winstead.

Winstead requested \$200 for transportation to and from the event which happened April 1-2. A few questions were asked concerning the mileage and transportation because the requested funding was for that purpose.

The next request was for funding to purchase a trailer that would be used by clubs and by the facilities department when not otherwise in use for events and moving equipment. The trailer would be registered as a

university vehicle and its registration was not part of the request. The total amount requested came to \$2946 and was approved since there were many uses for it.

A student from a class taught by Tiffany Artime, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology, gave the next request. They asked for \$75 to raise awareness for the homeless by setting up a table outside the cafeteria from April 4-8 and taking donations from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the interfaith emergency shelter. The funding would be used for flyers, snacks, and a gift card one donor could win. The request was granted quickly since it did not violate any student council rules.

Yet another request was made by the new Athletes in Action club for \$3869 for three campers and one intern to go to an Ultimate Training Camp to participate in sports related activities. Students could participate as campers or interns who would help lead the campers. During the description of this event, the National Collegiate Athletics Conference eligibility rules were mentioned, and while the student council technically approved this request, whether or not the club could participate depended on whether it would make them ineligible to play in their collegiate games.

The open forum discussion that followed the planned requests involved a few more requests which all involved on campus events. The first involved funding for pizza, soda and gift cards for the Your Vote Matters event which encouraged students to vote in the upcoming presidential elections. This took place on April 4 and taught students the importance of voting and gave them the opportunity to register to

vote. The total amount requested and granted was \$100. The next request made involved the music club and their swing dance which was open for students to attend. This event involved dancing, music, and even a dance instructor who taught those at the event how to dance. The dance occurred on April 1 at 7 p.m. in the Norman Worthington Conference Center. The money would go toward acquiring what was needed for the event, such as food, a dance instructor, and for the cost of using one of the facilities. The total amount allotted for this

event by the student council was \$1450.

The March 31 meeting had much more time for reports and had no memorandums. During the reports, the student council election was mentioned. The voting began on April 4 and was in the form of an online ballot. Additionally, the financial code is in the process of being revised since it was deemed too complex, and only parts of it were actually followed. In order for the revision to be final, it would need to be passed by the senate.

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How much are faculty paid at Saint Martin's University?

Victor Ieronymides  
Staff Writer

*Editor's Note: In order to find out what students think that the faculty at Saint Martin's make, we asked six students how much they thought that a Saint Martin's full time faculty made per year. Their responses are below. To the right of their responses is a pay scale presented to the Board of Trustees by Heather Grob, assistant professor of business. The discrepancy between what students think their faculty is earning and what they actually earn is rather large. The Belltower will continue to explore the issue of faculty pay in future issues.*



Photo courtesy of Hannah Reynolds

Hannah Reynolds,  
junior, \$95,000



Photo courtesy of Elin Johansson

Elin Johansson,  
sophomore, \$74,00



Photo courtesy of Colin O'Loughlin

Colin O'Loughlin,  
senior, \$80,00



Photo courtesy of Abby Maneman

Abby Maneman,  
junior, \$80,00



Photo courtesy of Claire McCloskey

Claire McCloskey,  
junior, \$85,000



Photo courtesy of Sarah Moore

Sarah Moore,  
senior, \$47,00

Faculty Salary Scale at Saint Martin's University for spring 2013				
Year	Instructor	Asst. Professor	Assoc. Professor	Full Professor
0	36,360	45,855	47,875	51,510
1	36,615	46,310	48,380	52,120
2	36,879	46,765	48,885	52,730
3	37,125	47,220	49,390	53,340
4	37,380	47,675	49,895	53,950
5	37,635	48,130	50,400	54,560
6	37,890	48,585	50,905	55,170
7	38,145	49,040	51,410	55,780
8	38,400	49,495	51,915	56,390
9	38,655	49,950	52,420	57,000
10	38,910	50,405	52,925	57,610
11	39,165	50,860	53,430	58,220
12	39,420	51,315	53,935	58,830
13	39,675	51,770	54,440	59,440
14	39,930	52,225	54,945	60,050
15	40,185	52,680	55,450	60,660
16	40,444	53,135	55,955	61,270
17	40,695	53,590	56,460	61,880
18	40,950	54,045	56,965	62,490
19	41,205	54,500	57,470	63,100
20	41,464	54,955	57,975	63,710
21	41,715	55,410	58,480	64,320
22	41,974	55,865	58,985	64,930
23	42,225	56,230	59,490	65,540
24	42,480	56,775	59,995	66,150
25	42,735	57,230	60,500	66,760
26	42,990	57,685	61,005	67,370
27	43,245	58,140	61,510	67,980
28	43,500	58,595	62,015	68,590
29	43,755	59,050	62,520	69,200
Increment	255	455	505	610

Faculty Salary Scale transcribed from a chart presented to the Board of Trustees

Unions, from cover

“Part of what collective bargaining might help us do is to actually see what the budget is. The budgeting process here has been so opaque, and we have been calling for transparency for the 26 years that I’ve been here, and so the decisions that get made about the budget don’t get made at the level where faculty of staff or others have input, what we are looking to do is open that up,” added a member of the audience. There were a few questions that challenged the notion that unionizing would be a good path for the faculty and staff to follow. Some of the concerns raised included

whether people could get fired for not joining the union, and if it was possible for people to abstain from joining the union and avoid the fees. “The model that we are working on now is that everyone would pay dues, if the faculty vote, or if the staff, or if the adjuncts, because we are talking about three different units. If a unit voted to do it, it would be what is known as a closed shop, that everyone in it would pay the dues, and would get the benefits,” said Price. The panel explained that while not required to join the union, faculty and staff would be required to pay union dues, or at the very least,

representation fees, as they would receive the benefits of the collective bargaining. Students raised questions about how a union would affect them and whether budgeting matters would be made more transparent to students as well as faculty and staff as a result of collective bargaining. No clear answers were given by the panel. It was suggested that in the future, students would take it upon themselves to figure out the budgeting process. At the end of the event, attendees were invited to sign in to receive more information, and were encouraged to contact Price with

questions. More events will be held in the future, giving students, faculty and staff the opportunity to learn more about unionizing efforts at Saint Martins. Additionally, Saint Martin’s University has created a page on the Saint Martin’s website about unionizing efforts. For more information visit, <https://www.stmartin.edu/faculty-and-staff/saint-martins-university-and-unionization-efforts>

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## Green Summit encourages participants to engage in sustainability efforts

**Michael Overfield**  
Staff Writer

On April 1, students, faculty, staff and administrators from Saint Martin's, along with individuals from The Evergreen State College and local non-profits, gathered for the first ever Green Summit. The event included two presentations, dinner and group discussions on how to use less resources and try to protect the environment. Students at the event learned about the sustainability movement that is taking place and how to advance it.

The event began with a presentation from Christine Cooley, who founded a sustainability office at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU). During her presentation, she described what she had done over the years, how the number of staff dedicated to coordinating the sustainability effort has grown, and how to

get others to join the sustainability movement.

"A secret weapon is absolutely peer to peer education," explained Cooley.

Students became more involved with the sustainability effort when invited to do so by their friends and peers. At PLU, garbage was left outside on a holiday weekend to see if students would go clean it up of their own accord, as a social experiment. Some students did clean it up and invited their friends to join them showing that peer pressure is a powerful motivator. Additionally, the presentation mentioned a green fund that was made using money from extra activity fees students had to pay upon attending the university, and how it helped the sustainability movement. The first presentation ended with the reminder not to push too hard and burn out those who are passionate about going green.

The second presentation was given by Scott Morgan, the director of sustainability at The Evergreen State College. He began his presentation by asking why one would even care to try to be sustainable. He explained that the earth seemed big, but had many

people living on it and limited resources. The sustainability offices on college campuses, such as at The Evergreen State College, work to educate and coordinate efforts toward being sustainable and trying to save the environment.

"We know the solutions we want to chase but it is hard," said Morgan.

Even those who are currently enthusiastic about living sustainable lives may become less enthusiastic due to time constraints, seeing that their efforts have little effect on the environment, or seeing that others around them don't seem to care. Morgan encouraged incremental changes that work toward advancing sustainability rather than trying to make a big change all at once.

Following the presentations, participants gathered around five tables. Each table was assigned a different aspect of sustainability to talk about. The groups discussed their table's topic, answered questions, and expressed what they felt could be done better.

"One thing that has bothered me is the lawns are watered during the summer," said one participant.

Reducing the amount of water

used for the grass was one suggestion among many others, such as: replacing paper towels with hand dryers, finding an alternative to the to-go boxes found in the cafeteria, adding motion sensors to turn off lights after a period of time, adding low-flow shower heads to the bathrooms and many more. Ideas about making all the first-year seminar classes take a sustainability oriented approach were also viewed as favorable.

After the first round of discussions, dinner was served, then the second and final session of table discussions happened. Everyone moved to a new table with a different topic to talk about and continued exploring ways to use less resources. Near the end of the summit, the different groups at the tables shared their ideas with all the other participants at the event, then left with more knowledge about efforts to preserve the environment, particularly in institutions of higher education.



Photos courtesy of Harrison Devine

Irina Gendelman and Heather Nicole Saladino moderated the event.



President Roy Heynderickx attended the Green Summit.

## "Drawing the Tiger" raises questions about poverty in Nepal

**Katherine Pecora**  
Staff Writer

For Shanta Darnal, a student in Nepal, the prospect of an education is a very distant and far-off hope. The Harvey Lecture series on Wednesday, April 6, screened the film "Drawing the Tiger", directed by Amy Benson. This film follows a Nepalese family living on less than one dollar a day in the mountainous town of Ramechhap.

One of the daughters in the Darnal family, Shanta, is given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity after being awarded a scholarship from a small American NGO that provides scholarships for poor Nepalese girls to go to school in Kathmandu. She goes to the city with the intent of proving herself to the world by becoming a doctor. A self-motivated and strong girl, Shanta moves to the city to live with her brother and sister-in-law.

Gender plays an enormous role in schooling in Nepal. Though girls and boys are treated the same in the classroom, Shanta asks her parents to treat her as a son because she intends to pay off the debts of her family. There is a very interesting generational divide evident in the film. Her grandmother questions why it is important to have an education when she is perfectly able to work right away. Her sister-in-law has a similar view.

Debt is a significant and repeating theme in the film. Shanta's parents work tirelessly to pay off the many debts that they owe. They are shown taking out loans just to pay off other debts. Shanta's mother Shushila Darnal must travel into the city with her husband to get medicine. The irony is thick, as the trip itself presents an incredible cost and the medicine she must take makes her so tired that she cannot work. In a world where it is nearly impossible to get ahead, let alone break even, the cycle of poverty is crushing. Shanta's mother must work, and she is also responsible for the majority of the duties around the household. Shanta's mother and sister-in-law are both illiterate. Shanta is often referred to as the most educated person in her village, yet many of the people in her village question the importance of an education over the ability to work.

Toward the end of the film, Shanta's older brother Kumar Darnal leaves Nepal to work in a Malaysian factory, leaving his wife and child alone, but sending money back to support his family. He is one of over 900,000 Nepalese working in Malaysia.

Producer Amy Benson believes that a main reason for the lack of ambition for females to get an education in Nepal is the lack of female role models. In America, there are women high up in political office,

for example, and other prominent women that young girls can look up to. The only examples Benson could cite as female role models were a variety of Nepalese pop stars.

Tragically, Shanta Darnal killed herself in the middle of the filming. Her family was very confused and shocked in the aftermath. They were struck by the possibility that they would never learn the root cause of her decision. Sadly, suicide is the number-one cause of death for females in Nepal. Nepal, with a population of 27.8 million, has only 45 or so licensed psychologists.

Benson was equally confused by the death of Shanta, saying, "She really seemed to have her life together, she was going to be a doctor and do something wonderful with her life."

This documentary touched on many issues, but most of all showed the cycle of poverty that shackles the rural villages in Nepal and how this crushing cycle kills ambition, especially for women. Hopefully, the future will prove that Shanta's life was not lived in vain.

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## Students studying abroad share insight on Brussels attack

**Taylor Gersch**  
Staff Writer

On the morning of March 22, three explosions went off in Belgium, killing 34 individuals. Two explosions occurred in the Brussels airport at 8 a.m. and another at 9 a.m. in the Maelbeek metro station. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks and Belgian federal police believe they have arrested the third terrorist involved in the attack. Two Saint Martin's students who are studying abroad have noted a new fear in response to the tragic events happening away from home.

Kelli Bannerman, a junior studying criminal justice with a Spanish minor, is currently studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Bannerman is studying at the University of Belgrano, through Cultural Experience Abroad (CEA), an independent study abroad program. She has been looking forward to studying abroad for years. Although she had mixed

feelings about leaving her Saint Martin's soccer teammates, family and friends behind, and was aware that she was going to an area with high crime rates, for her there was no turning back.

Bannerman takes steps daily to ensure her safety.

"On the buses, I always have my purse in front of me, with my hand on it. I never take my phone out unless I am with my friends or I am at the back where people can't see it out. I never take the bus alone at night, past midnight," Bannerman said. "When walking alone at night I always have my keys in my hand. When a taxi drops me off at my apartment, I have them wait until I am inside. I have had five friends have their phones stolen, right out of their hand or their bags. Some other friends of mine had their apartment broken into; everything was stolen. My host family's cousin was walking down the street and a kid with a knife came up and demanded his phone and wallet. It can happen to anyone."

After tragedies in both Brussels and Paris, Bannerman has a stronger desire to touch base with her family and friends and to spend time with them. The Brussels attack, however, has not instilled fear in Bannerman or other students in her program.

"Being abroad, we already know the stakes are high, as we're outside our home country," she continued. "It's dangerous anywhere in the world right now, we just all hope and pray we stay safe until we return home. The sad part is, these attacks are becoming too common."

Bannerman is extremely thankful

to have the opportunity to study abroad, but is concerned that eventually tragedies like the one in Brussels will begin to hit too close to home.

"All of my thoughts and prayers go out to Brussels, they didn't deserve this and none of the victims or families did either.

It was so devastating so hear of yet another attack," she added.

Steffany Woods is currently studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland at the International School of Business. At first, Woods was frightened about all the uncertainties of studying abroad somewhere she has never been. She was unsure whether people in Ireland would accept her culturally. However, she was excited about stepping out of her comfort

zone and embracing a whole new culture. Before the attack in Brussels, Woods was already taking small steps to ensure her safety, like always zipping her bags up before she left her room, but the events in Brussels really shook her.

"People that knew me knew I was freaking out. Ireland is a safe place, but you never know what's going to happen," Woods said.

Immediately after the attack in Brussels, Woods' new community took steps to ensure everyone was safe.

"My program, CEA, contacted everyone through our Irish phones and Facebook and we had to say

where we were because a lot of us were on spring break," she said.

After the attack in Brussels, the attitude of the American students in Woods' program changed. "We just look after each other. Since the American students are traveling to Amsterdam, Paris, and Portugal



Steffany Woods poses by cliffs in Ireland.

Photo courtesy of Steffany Woods

next week, we make sure we have someone going with us, and check up on each other via Facebook and our Irish phones," she said.

Woods is thankful for her safety in Ireland while hoping for a safe return to the U.S. and encourages everyone not to let these events affect their desire to travel and study abroad.

"Everyone should travel abroad. Brenda (Burns) makes it easy to have a plan financially and academically. Don't let events like these decide whether you have an opportunity to travel the world," Woods stated.



Photo courtesy of Kelli Bannerman

Kelli Bannerman poses in Argentina.

## Students to elect new ASSMU senate

**Taylor Gersch**  
Staff Writer

It is that time again for ASSMU elections, and Saint Martin's will soon be electing new officials for their student government. Voting for the elections began on April 1 and ended April 8. ASSMU plays a major role in the Saint Martin's community as it encourages students to seek positions among their peers to lead and be active in making important decisions among the student body. ASSMU meetings are every Thursday at 11 a.m., in the Trautman Student Union Building. Both ASSMU officers and executives hold office hours throughout the week to meet with Saint Martin's students.

Current ASSMU Executive Secretary Kerrigan Ah Mook Sang is excited about the upcoming elections.

"I'm looking forward to the open panel because I always love hearing why students want to be a part of ASSMU. There's always so much passion and new ideas to share!" she said.

In order to encourage more students to apply for ASSMU positions, the application date was extended until March 29.

"For those people who are skeptical about applying to ASSMU, I would say that this is a once in a lifetime experience," Sang said. "You'll be able to help students achieve ambitions through their different majors and interests. Besides this, you will be able to attend major functions with the faculty, staff and the board of trustees. These networking and marketing skills have helped me improve myself within my major and has helped me find the confidence I needed for the future."

Current ASSMU President Alyssa Melder is excited to pass on the torch to a new group of students.

"ASSMU is the student government made up of students and strictly for the students. Throughout this year, I have found that students do not understand the amount of power and impact they have on the school," said Melder. "ASSMU is one of the channels they can use to be heard. It is an extremely beneficial asset to our University, students simply need to be empowered to speak up and be creative in problem solving. That is why we are here. To help students fix and capitalize upon taking ownership of their educational experience."

Currently, ASSMU is several applications short of where they would like to be as they desire more competition among students. Melder hopes that the candidates take advantage of the platform they are given and try their best.

"Student government is a fantastic opportunity. We are hoping to set up next year's senate to really move forward and get a lot of student involvement. This year we fixed several procedural issues that have been around for far too long but there is still so much work to do. Hopefully we can have this senate well prepared for next year before they leave for the summer. We look forward to the incoming senate for the year of 2016 to 2017. Good luck to all the candidates!" she said.

The following are this year's candidates for ASSMU positions: Harrison Devine, Gavin Basuel, Anna Belford, Austin Miller, Heather Berg, Rebecca Tong, Anna Agloro, Patrick Burns, Rachel Fanchin, Larissa Kolasinski, Lindsey Leighton, Garnet Hatcher, and Madeline Miller.

Results will be announced Tuesday, April 12.

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Lu'au, from cover

Rosenberg stated that Hui O' Hawai'i's Lu'au is comparable to those held in Hawaii. "It's very similar. We don't have access to a lot of fresh flowers like they do in the islands. We also can't have fire dancers or have our Lu'au outside due to the chance of rain. But other than that, the food and entertainment are very similar to that of a traditional Hawaiian Lu'au," said Rosenberg. The menu for the night included kalua pig, shoyu chicken, macaroni salad, steamed rice and guava cake among other options. After those in attendance had their fill of the traditional Hawaiian feast, the final entertainment of the night commenced on center stage.

The Lu'au evening ended with multiple traditional dance performances. The choreographers and dancers on stage ranged from Saint Martin's faculty to Hui O' Hawai'i's own club members, all performing for the large crowd. Hui O' Hawai'i's planning and hard work certainly paid off for this year's Lu'au. Though the long lines for food and shave ice caused some grumbling among the impatient, the photo booth, Keiki Booth and "country store" offered entertainment for individuals



Attendents enjoyed traditional Hawaiian food and shave ice.

while they waited for their turn. Island music maintained an easy-going atmosphere throughout the first part of the evening as people ate and talked, while the dancing entertainment drew loud cheers and whistles of approval. Hui O' Hawaii "always manages to make Luau successful and fun every year," said Rosenberg. The event continues to be very popular among the students at Saint Martin's, and Hui O' Hawaii's hard work clearly pays off.



Photo courtesy of Rondau Decker

Hui O' Hawaii's senior class

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Ueno Sakura Matsuri: Cherry Blossom Festival

Blake Cloward  
Staff Writer

One of Japan's most famous attractions is the blooming of the Sakura, or cherry blossom trees. I was lucky enough to experience this wonderful sight. I had seen Sakura in pictures and movies, but had never been able to experience them first hand. Prior to my departure to study abroad in Japan, my Japanese friends had told me that the Sakura usually bloom in early March and that I would probably be too late to experience them. Since I was planning to arrive in Japan late March, I was afraid I might miss the Sakura blooming. Due to climate change and strange weather patterns however, the Sakura bloomed late this year and I arrived in Japan just in time to see these magnificent trees. The sheer extent of conifer trees in the Pacific Northwest is astounding – with some being the oldest living and largest organisms on Earth. Equally as astounding, the Sakura of Japan are possibly the most

beautiful plants I have ever seen. In the Northwest, it is a race amongst trees to grow tall and straight in order to capture as much of the lack of sunlight as possible. However, in a more temperate climate like Japan, the sun shines much more often throughout the year. This gives the trees like Sakura a chance to spread their limbs outward, resembling an umbrella shape, allowing them to absorb plenty of sunlight. A large Matsuri, Japanese for festival, is held in Ueno Park every year for the blooming of the Sakura. Ueno Park looks very similar to Central Park in New York. In the middle of the city is a very large forest and a lake, with all of the trees being Sakura. It was surreal. As far as I could see in any direction were beautiful white and pink flowers. In the densest parts of the forest, the flowers above me resembled fluffy white and pink clouds blocking out the sunlight, and only allowing small rays of light to filter through. Apart from the beautiful trees, the

festival itself was also very impressive. Many booths were set up around the park and sold a variety of traditional gifts, foods and other festive knickknacks. Street performers and dancers attracted large audiences. The entire Matsuri was very active and exciting. I am grateful to have experienced it and I recommend to everyone that they should try to see the Sakura blooming sometime in

their life. Saint Martin's has small cherry blossoms around campus, but to see them at their full potential is an amazing experience.



Sakura blooming draws people outdoors.

Photos courtesy of Blake Cloward



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Cherry blossom trees hang over the river.

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# Music club brings Dukes of Swing to campus

**Dimin Wen**  
Staff Writer

The second annual Swing Dance event was held by the Saint Martin's music club on the evening of April 1. It was a wonderful night with a live 18 piece swing band, the Dukes of Swing. The director of the band, Dave McCreary, gave a lesson in swing dancing which helped attendees learn the moves. The Dukes of Swing are a local band, but they travel around the country giving performances. McCreary is aware of the music program's efforts at Saint Martin's. He was happy to participate in the event and had lots of fun with the students.

"We wanted a theme that is more springy, which has more spring colors and more signs of rejuvenation with changing of the season" said senior Tamara Ramsey, president of the music club at Saint Martin's.

Cal Durant, the Eagle's swing club leader, was also present at the event. He danced and gave a swing lesson to the participants for about an hour.

In total, about 150 people attended

the swing dance event. They were mostly from Saint Martin's and the nearby community. The event successfully raised about \$200.



Walther Hoffman and Jennifer Walker practice on the dance floor.

"We are trying to purchase a brand new dance floor for SMU which we've been thinking about for a long time. This would be one of the best ways to approach that," Ramsey explained.

During the night, there were various prizes, such as picnic baskets. The prizes were enjoyable not just to Saint Martin's students, but also to the community members. Free food was provided, ranging from chips or cookies to vegetables and

fresh fruits. The purpose of this event was not just the dancing. The music club wants more people to know about the music program at

Saint Martin's. Music majors love their work, and they want people who enjoyed the night to understand what the music program is working on and how they are advancing as a program.

Ramsey also stated, "I really would like to thank Darrel Born and Brad Schrandt, who are the professors who gave us lots of advice. In 2015, we had no idea what we were doing for the

first swing dance night. However, this year we are doing so much better than last year. I feel so proud of our club. We have great students like Neil McCafferty, Samantha Meek, Jennifer Walker and Matthew Nguyen. They came almost five hours before the event to set up and organize. I could not have done it without them. We are also grateful to ASSMU for helping us fund the event, and American Party Place. I also want to thank Bon Appetit, Dukes of Swing, Cal Durant, and everyone who attended the event."

As Ramsey talked, she sounded sad because she is graduating in a month, which means she is leaving the club she has been in for three years of her college life at Saint Martin's. She seemed close to tears as she gave her final speech of the night.

Ramsey hopes that Swing Dance Night will become a tradition and continue on. She loves music and she hopes it will continue to be celebrated at Saint Martin's.



Those in attendance showed their moves on the dance floor.



The 18 piece band kept people on the dance floor throughout the evening.

Photos courtesy of Harrison Devine

# Sexual Assault Awareness Month at SMU

**Cleo Pineda**  
Staff Writer

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). As a result, Saint Martin's University planned and will host awareness events throughout the month of April so that everyone had the opportunity to learn about various forms of sexual discrimination and assault that can occur on and off campus.

The Ally Rally took place on March 31 at the Trautman Student Union Building (TUB) to kick off SAAM. The event was free and open to the public in order to educate on topics such as sexual violence. The rally itself aimed to follow the nationwide theme for this year, "Prevention Is Possible."

One of the creative activities that engaged students during SAAM was customizing T-shirts. They are now displayed in Old Main, the TUB and the Charneski Recreation Center and serve as a visible means of protesting against the misconceptions that surround sexual assault. Along with this interactive exercise, participants of the rally also got the chance to hear speeches from different members of the community, including a key note speaker from Safe Place, an advocacy agency and confidential shelter for survivors of domestic violence and sexual



Photo courtesy of Harrison Devine

T-shirts made by students in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

assault in Thurston County.

According to Interim Assistant Director of Campus Life Deveney Dela Cruz, the purpose behind the Ally Rally was to broaden the focus on how anyone can be an effective ally to those who are affected by sexual assault, and to learn what can be done as an informed bystander to prevent more people from becoming victims of sexual violence.

"I think it's incredibly important for SMU to participate in SAAM. Sexual assault is very prevalent, especially on college campuses and many people don't take it seriously

enough," said Samantha Meek, a junior mathematics major.

SAAM is meant to supply everyone with the tools and strategies needed to generate more meaningful conversations surrounding sexual assault, consent and how to help others through a sexual assault situation.

"Hopefully with more awareness and genuine understanding, the members of the SMU community will be able to help combat this issue," Meek added.

"It's a crucial issue that needs to be talked about. A lot of people have

experienced this and they shouldn't feel alone. We all can do something to help everyone going through the difficult times," said junior Ellamae Donato.

One of the highlights of this month is the Green Dot Training, which is a workshop that encourages the most effective and appropriate bystander intervention strategies.

Outside of SAAM, SMU provides Green Dot training during student leadership preparation with the goal of creating a positive ripple effect among students. The goal of the nationwide Sexual Assault Prevention and Response training is to reduce the amount of abuse in schools that use it.

Students claim to be uninformed about the Green Dot program. Both Donato and Meek do not recall even hearing about it. Granted, it is a fairly recent program picked up by the University. Green Dot should gain more momentum as time progresses. Students suggest that Saint Martin's should continue to put more stress on the anti-violence program throughout the year.

"I think it's important because it is a sign that our school shows support," stated senior Sylvia Ku.

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# Clear need for childcare services at Saint Martin's University

**Dalia Pedro Trujillo**  
Editor-in-Chief

Bianca Lupercio is a senior studying criminal justice at Saint Martin's University (SMU) who begins a typical day in her life at midnight, when she puts her three-month-old daughter, Katalina, to bed. Lupercio then feeds her daughter at 3 a.m., 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. They both head to SMU for their 10 a.m. class, where after 30 minutes, Katalina needs to be rocked. The rest of the day is spent in two hour blocks, as Katalina needs to feed every two hours. These are just some of the challenges that being a parent and a student at Saint Martin's brings; challenges which are not limited to students.

Jamie Olson, associate professor of English, explained how balancing the challenges of being a parent requires some scrambling.

"It's hard. Basically, it's a matter of time and money. Balancing how much time can I take away from office here at Saint Martin's in order to not to pay for childcare on certain

days. What I have done for the past year or two is I pay for afterschool care on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and I only teach until 2:30 on Tuesday, Thursday, so that I can pick her up from school, and not have to pay for afterschool care--saves me a little bit of money, but that means that I am not here if someone needs to meet with me," said Olson.

Olson has a seven year old daughter who was born in the first month that he started teaching at Saint Martin's.

"(Having a newborn) made it really stressful for my first semester. At the same time my wife was staying home that first year—she was lucky to be able to do that. Of course, it was expensive for us to not have her income," said Olson.

Kaitlyn Perry, a senior history major, was not able to stay home after giving birth to her son Dean during the fall semester.

"The week that I came back was midterm's week. So, I had a 3-week-old son at home. I was trying to juggle adjusting to having a child, adjusting to my body, adjusting into incorporating him into my life, and here's a midterm exam," said Perry.

Perry's biggest challenge as a student mom was finding childcare services. After looking at various childcare programs near Saint Martin's, the most affordable quote she received for childcare was \$1500 a month. This was a cost which Perry's family could not afford.

As a result, Perry has had to rely on family members in the nearby area to babysit Dean.

"Every day during the week he goes to a different person. They are anywhere from an hour and a half to two hours away. I have to drive that just for two hours of classes.

And then go back and pick him up," said Perry.

The need for childcare services is not a new concept on campus. Jessica Rae Pennock and Holly Miller, 2015 social work graduates, assessed the need for on campus childcare as part of their senior project. Their results were presented at Scholar's Day in 2015 in a report titled, "Examining the Perceived Need for Childcare at Saint Martin's University."

Kathleen McKain, associate professor of French, presented Pennock and Miller's result to the Faculty Welfare Committee, which was interested in the subject. The Faculty Welfare committee seeks to address issues that affect faculty such as salary, benefits and working conditions.

According to McKain, there is currently no timeline for when childcare services might be provided on campus. Colleges nearby, such as South Puget Sound Community College and The Evergreen State College, provide childcare services to their students, faculty and staff. The welfare committee is doing research on those models to try and see if Saint Martin's could do something similar.

Lupercio believes that in the meantime, Saint Martin's could start accommodating parents by providing breastfeeding and diaper changing stations.

Despite the challenges of being a parent, students have found the faculty members at Saint Martin's to be accommodating and understanding of their needs.

Lupercio has had a positive experience with professors that understand her needs as a mother. Her daughter was born at the beginning of spring



Photo courtesy of Kaitlyn Perry

Kaitlyn Perry with her son Dean

semester, and Lupercio worked with professors to turn in assignments from home. Professors have also been really helpful in letting her bring Katalina to class when a babysitter is not available.

Perry also has had positive experiences working with the faculty at Saint Martin's.

"I was actually amazed at how helpful the faculty were, and how accepting they were of my situation. I wouldn't have been able to even continue on with the semester if I didn't have the teachers that I did at the time," said Perry.

Being a parent at Saint Martin's is a challenging undertaking, whether your child is 3-months-old, or 10-years-old. To make it easier, Olson advises that student-parents approach their professors during the first week of classes and let them know of their situation. That way, faculty can be aware, and work with the students when babysitters cancel, or children get sick.



Photo courtesy of Bianca Lupercio

Bianca Lupercio with her daughter Katalina

## Several students favor Bernie Sanders, while others prefer Ted Cruz

**Victor Ieronymides**  
Staff Writer

With current U.S. President Barack Obama's term coming to an end, the people of the U.S. are getting ready to vote again. Many Saint Martin's students will have the opportunity to vote this year and opinions vary about whom they will be supporting.

Shani Wrenn, a junior at Saint Martin's, shared her concerns about the upcoming election.

"I am worried there is a very strong probability that Trump will be representing the Republican Party," she explained.

In terms of who Wrenn will be voting for, she expressed her strong feelings for Senator Bernie Sanders of the Democratic Party. In particular, Wrenn explained that she supports Sanders because "he truly seems to be a man of his word. His entire campaign is much more positive than the campaign of the other candidates."

In addition, Wrenn said that she particularly liked the way "Sanders handled the Black Lives Matter protesters at one of his rallies compared to other candidates, proving that Sanders is someone

who cares about the people and possesses the right tolerance and experience to be the best candidate."

First-year student Noemi Maya-Mendoza said, "I am surprised how far Donald Trump has made it. I thought that up to now people would realize he is not worthy, and the fact he is one of the main candidates for the Republican Party still comes as a surprise to me."

Mendoza's beliefs correlate most with Sanders' as she believes Sanders stands behind everything he says and does. Those are some of the reasons she will be voting for him.

Mendoza added, "I like how Sanders is real and genuine with what he says, as young voters need someone like him to lean on. His vision for the future applies to me."

Parker House, who was eager to talk about the upcoming elections, believes candidates of both parties are divided. Regardless, House stands behind Sanders.

"Bernie Sanders would be my number one choice because there is almost nothing he says that I don't agree with," said House.

"I thought Sanders' debates went well so far, specifically his debates and view on abortion, minimum

wage and gun control. I believe Sanders is the most levelheaded candidate and I believe that he genuinely cares about the people. With that being said, I also admire the fact that Sanders is the only candidate that is not financed by corporations unlike the rest and instead is mostly funded by donations of his own supporters. Clearly, people love him."

Communications major Nate Pearsall did not think that Trump would have made it this far since he declared to run for president. Pearsall believes that Sanders is consistent about his message.

"Sanders has been able to stay in one concrete area throughout his campaign and stands for what he says. Unlike other candidates, Sanders does not terrorize people's beliefs and in general he is a guy who will get stuff done. In addition, I like the way Sanders handles his ideas even if people do not like what he says, because like it or not he will still believe in what he stands for and will not change his mind no matter what people say," said Pearsall.

Not everyone at Saint Martin's is a Sander's fan, or plans to vote for a Democrat, however.

Lindsey Dorney, first-year education major, stated, "If a Democrat were to become president, nothing would ever get done because the House and Senate are already Republican and will therefore veto anything they don't see eye to eye. It wouldn't be the best idea for the president to be a Democrat as they won't agree on most of the things but argue instead."

Dorney will be voting for Ted Cruz because she "supports his conservative views, and his immigration policies in contrast to Trump's."

Joe Edgecomb, first-year chemistry and mathematics double major and physics minor, is not happy with the choice of candidates this election cycle.

"I do not think we have the best available candidates to choose from for the next U.S. President," he said.

Nevertheless, Edgecomb will be supporting Ted Cruz because he intends to vote for a Republican candidate. Edgecomb supports Cruz's conservative principles on gay marriage and abortion. He also admires how Cruz is open and tolerant to different faith beliefs.

Edgecomb concluded by saying Cruz "obviously has flaws, but who doesn't?"



# Saints' baseball excited for home games

**Brittany Orlosky**  
Staff Writer

The Saint Martin's University (SMU) men's baseball team opened up their Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) season on the road in Idaho this spring against Northwest Nazarene University, losing the series 1-3. It has been a tough season for the men so far, dealing with injuries and a small roster.

"Although the team has had a lot of close games, we haven't played well enough to win games, we haven't come through in clutch situations," stated red shirt first-year pitcher Luke Hare.

The men are currently 9-19 overall and 6-12 in conference. They began their spring preseason games against Whitman College, Minot State University, Dixie State University, and California Baptist, three of these series being on the road. Playing on the road has been a factor in the men's baseball season so far. Until this past weekend, April 2-3, the men had been on the road since the middle of February.

Although the team has struggled

while on the road with injuries and a small roster, they believe having home games the next couple of weekends will help influence how they play.

Kaelen Hirashiki, the second base senior, said, "We have a five home week stand, so we are looking to capitalize on that and use our home field advantage to gain some momentum in the second half of the conference season."

Hare agreed, saying, "Now that we're on our home stand we can turn this season around. It's difficult playing games consistently."

Even though the men's team has played many close games against competitive teams, the chemistry of the team contributes to the men's performance.

"We don't have a standout guy on our team and that's what makes our team special. We are very team oriented and thrive off each other. We know if we play solid offense and defense, that'll put us in a great position to win any game," Hirashiki continued.

"We all get along really well, and it plays a part on the field. We aren't individuals, we are playing as a team," said Hare.

The team has fought through their season on the road, with rained out games here at SMU, are really looking forward to playing a complete game.

"We just have to string it all together. We haven't been playing terrible, (we) just haven't been able to put plays together throughout the whole game," continued Hare. "We have one inning here and there—if we continue to improve and play consistently, we should overcome those inconsistencies."

The men's team will continue their GNAC play at home for the next three weekends against Western Oregon University, Central Washington University and Concordia University-Billings May 5-6 and end GNAC play.

Hirashiki remains optimistic.

"As a young and constantly developing team, I think we're holding our own. We've had a lot of freshman step up in huge situations and that's always something great to see," he said.



## For the love of the game: Student athletes at Saint Martin's

**Brooke Rickard**  
Staff Writer

The challenges students face are familiar to the entire Saint Martin's community. Whether it is homework, studying for a test, work or even managing a social life, students have a lot on their plates.

Dactor in two to four hours of practice every day, six days a week, after a full day of classes with a mound of homework to do, and don't forget the time it takes to travel to other schools or competition time. Sports teams are often gone for days or even a week at a time, travelling to other states for games and tournaments and missing classes.

On top of that, student athletes are faced with challenges that are a bit more specific to their sport. Some are dual-sport athletes, meaning they play two sports. Some teams practice before the sun rises, and many are faced with injuries at some point in their career.

The Belltower interviewed a few student athletes to share their

experiences here at Saint Martin's University.

**Mikel Smith (redshirt junior, Men's track and field)**

Q: What do you think is the biggest challenge athletes face that students don't?

A: "Being gone so much and still having to make time to study. Like when you travel studying is the last thing you want to do. Depending on the location you just want to go out and see what is around you, but instead we stay in to study then to get our minds right for the task at hand which is competing well the next day or the next few days. As athletes it is a lot harder to get a job because most jobs will not work around your schedule of when you practice, compete, and (have) school. As athletes we give up our free time to perfect our craft and to maintain a good GPA to be able to still compete."

**Torin Dooley (senior, baseball)**

Q: What is a challenge that you think is specific to your sport? How do you overcome it?

A: "One challenge we face is our schedule. We play four games every weekend, two on Saturday and two on Sunday. It ends up being about an 8-9 hour day, and depending on weather it could be longer. From when we get to the field and when we leave

the field, we don't get much break. The only way to overcome it is to get used to it. Being prepared for a long day starts with eating the right food, hydration, and a positive mindset going into each day and game."

**Brooklyn Tacke (First-year, volleyball and softball)**

Q: What is the biggest challenge of being on two rosters? Do you find it difficult to be a dual-sport athlete?

A: "The biggest challenge of being on two rosters is definitely trying to balance both sports at the same time. Being a dual-sport athlete in college is a completely different story than in high school in that it is so much more competitive. It's hard because you have to miss time in both sports which can put you at a disadvantage if you're not getting that extra time in. Being a dual-sport athlete has in many ways been more challenging than I thought it would be but also very rewarding. Trying to balance both sports has been difficult, but being able to be a part of two teams has been a privilege. After all the time spent together, teammates become family and I am very lucky to have such a close bond with two amazing groups of people."

**Elin Johansson (sophomore, women's basketball)**

Q: What is the greatest adjustment you've had to make? (Johansson is originally from Sweden.)

A: "Culturally, there are more differences than you might think at first, since both Sweden and USA are first-world countries that both are very industrialized. But when first arriving here I kind of got a culture shock. First and foremost the language barrier made a significant difference, even though I know I didn't struggle as much as many other international students. But also the way people carry themselves and act is different from Europe in general. It took me a while to figure out how Americans work, but now I think I got it figured out. School-wise, there is a lot more busy work here, whereas in Sweden you would have bigger assignments less often instead. This makes the importance of discipline more visible. Also, the concept of multiple choice was completely new for me, except for the SAT, and was definitely something I had to adjust to."



Photo courtesy of Shauna Baile

Mikel Smith is a two time all american.



Elin Johansson grabs the rebound.

Photo courtesy of Cassidy Rehwalder



# Former Saints' goalie looking to make Major League Soccer roster

**Patrick Burns**  
Staff Writer

Zac Lubin is a former goalie for the SMU men's soccer team. He played for the Saints from 2007 until 2010. He started 63 games for the Saints and had a career 2.18 goals average. Lubin started as walk-on, but after meeting with Rob Walker, director of soccer, he was awarded a scholarship.

Lubin is from Montana and was looking for a place to continue his soccer career. He found Saint Martin's and fell in love with the program and the coaches.

"I knew I wanted to go to college in Washington State or in Colorado, and my mom's family is from Olympia. My uncle knew Walker, and that SMU was getting a new team. He connected me with him. After Rob saw my video, I became an official recruit. And was offered a position that gave me the great opportunity to play and to have incredible goal keeping coaching under Rob Walker and Tom Dutra, who is the current Seattle Sounders FC coach," said Lubin.

It was these connections that led him to being the star goalie for the Saints.

During his tenure in the net, he was able to lead the Saints to their first ever Great Northwest Athletic

Conference (GNAC) Championship and recalls this as his favorite memory of being on the team.

"I loved being at SMU. I had a lot of family in the area and was

the school's first ever GNAC championship," said Lubin.

He is currently playing in the United Soccer League (USL) which is a feeder league to Major League

USL team of Sporting Kansas City. I made the move from The Tulsa Roughnecks last year, who competes in USL, but is unaffiliated to any MLS team. It was a big move because it gives me the opportunity to be seen by MLS coaches day in and day out. I attended all of pre-season with Sporting KC before Swope Park started training, and I am in and out of Sporting's training sessions on a daily basis. Making this move is a big step towards my goal of being an MLS goalkeeper."

Walker considers Lubin to be one of the most successful players to come out of SMU and sees a bright future ahead for the keeper. He attributes this success to Lubin's work ethic at practice.

"Zac was always hungry to work, to learn and to raise his performance; we sowed those seeds during his four years here and then helped him hone them as he served a couple of off-seasons on our staff and we continued to help him work on all aspects of his game," said Walker.

He continued, "He's definitely been through the most pro seasons and looks poised to continue to break through the ranks as a pro. Not bad for a walk-on from Montana!"



Photo courtesy of Zac Lubin

Zac Lubin makes a diving save.

a four year starter. I also loved the small SMU community, where you knew everyone and professors who cared about you. My favorite memory, though, would be winning

Soccer (MLS). He is on a team in Kansas City, Miss., and hopes to get to the MLS some day in the future.

"I currently play for the Swope Park Rangers, a directly owned

# Welcoming new volleyball head coach: Jon Killingbeck

**Brittany Orlosky**  
Staff Writer

Not often does a division one coach step down to division two—especially when doing so requires moving across the country to work at a small, private university. For Coach Jon Killingbeck, who was born and raised in the Puget Sound, moving himself and his family to be the new head coach of the women's volleyball team was not even a question.

Coach Killingbeck was the head coach at Iona College in New York when he heard about the opening at Saint Martin's University (SMU).

"I saw the coaching job on the Saints website when coach Kara stepped down and immediately reached out to the athletic director and applied when the job was open."

After being hired, Killingbeck returned to his roots without hesitation.

"I went to Fife High School. Washington is home—this is home for me."

Not only was Killingbeck interested in coming back home to Washington, SMU was a big attraction to the coach.

"Saint Martins is a beautiful campus and a private school which is stuff you sell to recruits. The challenge of building a champion team here attracted me most. It's not as big of a deal at a big school, but to do that here it would be legendary for volleyball."

Killingbeck is excited to start

the season in the fall and especially excited to play Central Washington University, his alma mater. The new coach said the team's goal is to win in the fall, and as a result they are focusing on how to achieve those wins

"Our goal is to control what we can control, cut down errors, play better defense than last year, and being disciplined in our system. If we do these things, winning will come," he said.

It has been a great start and atmosphere for the coach and players' relationship. The team starts every practice with a question of the day and they are already building a new culture.

"It is important the team knows who I am and what we run, setting tones so the girls are used to it now, so they aren't playing catch up during the fall."

Killingbeck said that change can be difficult, "especially going through a style where we're learning a new system, I am coaching differently, the girls are competing and being stated every day. They understand that in 15 years they have had 35 conference wins. They want to be the first group to break through this and win."

After having a rough season last fall, the women's volleyball team is eager and excited to get rolling with the new coach.

"It has really helped because the girls have been really welcoming and have come in competing and getting to know them—it is important to build new relationships and has been a lot of fun getting

to know new people," Killingbeck stated. "It is important that the girls know where they stand. I don't yell and I use analytics to put them in a position to be more successful."

The new volleyball coach has said that it has been great coming to SMU because of the beautiful campus and welcoming community.

However, he stated that "the hardest part is leaving a program after five years. The hardest part is sometimes you find yourself talking to them about something they haven't gone over. It takes time, and we are putting in a culture. It's been helpful because the girls are trying to make changes."

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# SMU track and field finishing out strong

**Brooke Rickard**  
Staff Writer

Saint Martin's University's track and field team had a successful indoor season, which included two All-Americans: Shannon Porter, and Mikel Smith, who is now a two-time All-American.

Now, as the team has moved into outdoor season and the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships (GNAC) approach, several track athletes are making strides to qualify for the chance to compete.

Kalli Walker hit an NCAA provisional mark on March 19 at the Lewis and Clark Invitational in Portland, Ore. with a throw of 142-10. A recent elbow injury has withheld the redshirt-junior from competing in the past few meets.

Injury or not, Walker is still working on perfecting her craft for her return to competition at the end of April, just a month before the GNAC Championships.

"I'm not allowed to throw at all so I'm left with conditioning and

foot work mostly," Walker says of her injury. "I'm not one that likes to take breaks but I don't have any other choice really. But I'm trying to turn this negative into a positive—working on speed and quickness along with picking apart my throw and working on the areas that really need improvement."

Along with Walker, Matt Dehan also hit a provisional mark at the Lewis and Clark Invitational in

the gym twice a day and also improving my diet. I have seen noticeable gains, developing physically and getting faster and stronger. I have also been going to the training room to prevent re-injuring my shoulder so I can stay ahead of getting too worn out. This combination of preparation has been vital in achieving higher marks and moving to bigger poles."

Dehan knows that performance does not solely depend on field practice. It requires taking care of your body and molding it to be in the best physical shape.

Teammate Kirby Neale agrees that success begins with the proper training.

"The preparation for this season consisted of a lot more conditioning," Neale admits. "We are now lifting three times a week instead of two times."

Neale, a senior, competes in both the shot put and hammer. Both events require impeccable technique and a great deal of strength, considering the women's shot and hammer both weigh four kilograms, which is about 8.8 lbs.

Last season, Neale hit a provisional mark and is fully committed to hitting another mark and competing in nationals, which will be held in Florida.

Junior Mitch Wilkens competed in both the indoor and

outdoor championships last season. Hoping to compete again at this season's outdoor championships, Wilkens has not only committed to the new conditioning program, but has also invested himself off the field and out of the gym.

"This year I have gotten even more serious," says Wilkens. "I not only focus on working hard at practice and the weight room, but I am also watching videos and the form of great throwers from around the world. I am also trying to improve my nutrition and sleep to keep my body primed to compete at a higher level."



Photo courtesy of Skylar Larson

Kirby Neale winds up to throw the shot put.

pole vault with a jump of 16-2. This height exceeds the 15-4 1/4 record height set last season, earning Dehan the school record for pole vault. The sophomore's first place finish earned him the GNAC Men's Field Athlete of the Week. Dehan's only event is pole vaulting, allowing him to focus the entirety of his training on perfecting his craft.

"I have been running and going to



Photo courtesy of John Charles

Matt Dehan pole vaults to new heights.

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## Pickthorn envisions bright future for men's golf

**Patrick Burns**  
Staff Writer

Ryan Pickthorn of the Saints' golf team had a dream start to his spring season. He won the East, West Bay Area Invite in Livermore, Calif. back in February. At the tournament, he shot a four over par and it was good enough to

place first over the next competitor who was at a seven over par. Since then, the redshirt senior has gone on to have two performances that do not accurately show his game.

"I didn't contribute as well as I would have liked at the last two tournaments and so I'm working very hard on bringing consistency back into my game," said Pickthorn.

He also plans to be able to work on his game hard enough to place top five in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), which is how he finished in his first year at SMU.

"I placed top 5 as a freshman and feel the course suites me very well," said Pickthorn.

He will be looking to do well in

the upcoming tournaments so he can finish in a similar fashion.

This season, Pickthorn has won two tournaments and placed top five in two tournaments as well. He will be looking to rebound from the last two tournaments he played in where did not do as well as he knows he can. But Pickthorn will be



Photo courtesy of Ryan Pickthorn

Ryan Pickthorn reads the green before putting.

able to make the tournament individually because of his good scores throughout the season.

He also thinks the Saints have a chance to make the regionals this year. However, the team will need to finish very strong as a group in the last two events of the season to make that a reality.

Next season he sees the SMU team doing bigger and better things because of the cohesiveness of the experienced group of seniors mixed with some strong young players.

"Our team dynamics are awesome and will only make us better next year. Personally my goal for next year is to give it everything I've

got. I still feel we are a young team and next year we will have a good mix of strong young players and some strong experienced upperclassmen. I think a good goal would be to qualify for regionals. To get there we have to remain focused for both seasons, fall and spring. I believe it's easy to lose focus when there are two seasons in golf. The team proved something this year that we can compete and win as a team. We need to carry that mentality

into every event."

Pickthorn and the Saints are back in action at the Harry Stanislaus Invitational in Turlock, CA on April 14 and April 15.



## “Shadowhunters” Season 1 entertaining, but Clary Fray is unconvincing

**Regina Reed**  
Staff Writer

Freeform’s new TV series, “Shadowhunters,” based off of Cassandra Clare’s bestselling young adult novels “The Mortal Instruments,” promised fans of the books an engaging, entertaining drama on Monday nights. The ad-spots were promising and overall, the first season of the series delivered a much better interpretation and presentation than the 2013 film. From the viewpoint of someone who finished reading the series three years prior to the show’s release, the progression of major plots points seems to stay true to the general chronology of the novel, and the hour-long episodes are not too rushed or too sluggish.

The extended amount of screen time in a series format allows character and plot development, the inclusion of details that may have been otherwise lost in a film, and also permits embellishments and changes to the original series. Notable among these changes is the age of the main characters. Clary begins the series on her 18th birthday, two years older than in the book series, but a two-year age difference is not to the detriment of the overall series. On the contrary, slightly older characters allow the sexy aspects of characters like Isabelle to be played up, as well as the sexual tension between Clary, Simon, Jace, Magnus and Alec. Oh yeah, did I mention there are some love triangles and

love interests in this teen drama? Those were in the book too, making this a perfect series for Freeform, formerly ABC Family, to entice its new target audience.

My general opinion of “Shadowhunters” is that it’s a visually stimulating show, but otherwise, it’s pretty mediocre. Perhaps I continue

villain, Valentine, apparently decided to set up his “lair” in Chernobyl...? Where the heck did that come from? But I digress; it’s not possible to perfectly adapt a book to TV. However, aside from the very odd decision to place Valentine in a radioactive wasteland, I’ve got a serious problem with this show,

actress in a highly anticipated TV series on a highly popular network, shouldn’t “fake cry” be part of the audition? Clary cries all the time! She suffers and weeps as horrible events unfold, and rightly so. But each time, her aggressive breathing that is supposed to be sobs is so bad that it makes me as a viewer

feel awkward FOR Clary. I turn away from the screen and cringe a little. I feel the way one feels when the best man makes a bad joke at a wedding reception and people only halfway laugh out of pity. Internally, everyone is thinking “Please, for the love of God stop.” I hoped that as each episode of the first season developed in a really positive and satisfying way, so too would Clary’s ability to cry, but this hope bore no fruit.

Clary’s story and her efforts to save her mother, vanquish the evil Valentine and accept her fate as a Shadowhunter demon fighter are highly entertaining and engaging. The cast of the show is outwardly beautiful and I’m invested in the love interests and drama of each character. On those points the show fulfills what I’m looking for in a Freeform TV series, and I’m not even that picky about the changes made from the books. But Clary, oh Clary. I continue to hope that season two will result in you refraining from crying altogether, or learning the art of the fake cry. If not, I don’t know if I’ll be tuning in after the first few episodes.



“Shadowhunters” TV show is based on the book series “The Mortal Instruments.”

to watch because part of me wants to see what graphic effects will be used for the next demon fight. Or maybe because I like looking at Clary’s gorgeous, flame-red hair, and wishing that for once television would be realistic and have the heroine put her hair in a haphazard bun to fight demons from hell. I’ve learned to forgive discrepancies in film and TV adaptations of books I love—that’s not the problem with “Shadowhunters.” The changes I understand. Well, mostly. The

simply as a TV series.

Clary Fray, the main character whose sudden discovery that she is part-angel is the catalyst for the entire series, cannot fake cry. The central actress of the series can’t fake cry! To be honest, the acting in general from all characters could use some work. The dialogue comes across rather stilted, and Clary’s way of being “intense” is really just huffing and breathing aggressively between her words—Kristen-Stewart-as-Bella-Swan-style. As an

## “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” fails to live up to the hype

**Travis Munday**  
Managing Editor

Ever since a clash of titans had been teased at the San Diego Comic Con in 2013 and a release date was set for March of 2016, I was on pins and needles hoping God wouldn’t come back in the interim. Now that the movie’s been promoted to hell and released, and after seeing the movie myself, I really wish I’d been raptured before the opening credits, somewhere in the middle of Regal Cinema’s warning about cellphone use.

“Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” is a CGI-laden embarrassment, rich with every dead and dying superhero movie formula offered since audiences started heaving money at them. And I’m no exception. I LOVED the Christian Bale Batman movies. Their director, Christopher Nolan, created an entirely new world, giving a dark plausibility to the Batman story and producing characters with fairly believable complexity. Even the Marvel movies that come out at a pace I don’t think anyone is entirely comfortable with make for an undeniably fun night out. I’m convinced Zach Snyder directed “Batman v Superman” solely to snap the right pictures for its endless lines of graphic tees and McDonald’s cups.

Everyone knows the Batman story. People are born knowing it. There is no need to rehash

where he came from on the big screen once again—how his parents were brutally murdered, fueling the revenge he takes on all of Gotham’s criminals. The movie ends up referencing this endlessly. It doesn’t spend too much time on a beat-by-beat retelling—the story is told via montage over opening credits—but

Specific events in Snyder’s “Man of Steel” are referenced to death as well, particularly in an effort to establish Superman’s romance with reporter Lois Lane. Scenes where Superman shows up to save Lois are supposed to hammer home his undying love for her, but each one ends up looking unbearably clichéd,

in Metropolis during the events of “Man of Steel”, causing Wayne to blame tremendous losses of life on Superman’s powers. Luthor also captures Superman’s mother, Martha, and threatens harm if the heroes don’t fight.

Film critic for the Patriot Ledger, Al Andrews, summarizes where the movie’s over-the-top CGI flourishes and weak plot points meet saying, “Director Zack Snyder loves sparks. They’re emanating from everywhere – everywhere, that is, except his hapless story about superheroes missing their mommies. And wouldn’t you know it, both ladies happen to be named Martha. What were the odds?” This commonality among the battling heroes, as ridiculous and unlikely as it seems, actually ends up stopping their fight and unites them against their corrupt puppeteer, Lex Luthor.

“Batman v Superman” was a lofty idea, but it tried to cover too much material in too little time, even though the movie clocked in at a very lengthy two and a half hours. If DC comics had gone the route that Marvel went, introducing characters one by one before bringing them together for a feature length film, DC’s plans for a franchise might have turned out to be a little more promising.



it’s over-referenced in flashbacks and odd dreams Bruce Wayne has in his Bat Cave.

Superman’s parallel storyline doesn’t fair any better. Snyder has admitted that “Batman v Superman” is a sequel to his 2013 film “Man of Steel,” which audiences and critics alike have viewed as a tepid retelling of another story everyone on earth has heard—alien super-baby crash-lands and grows up to help humanity as Superman.

complete with too-long close-ups of Superman staring longingly at Lois as he wards off deadly attacks.

Also, Batman is supposed to be a “super-sleuth,” but he’s easily fooled by the eccentric Lex Luthor—played by over-caffeinated Jesse Eisenberg—into thinking that Superman’s unchecked strength will be humanity’s undoing. Luthor anonymously sends Bruce Wayne news clippings of the destruction of a Wayne Enterprises building



## Paul Singer: The vulture who finances the Republican Party

**Lucas Shannon**  
Section Editor

According to many people in this country on both ends of the political spectrum, though particularly on the left, Charles and David Koch represent all that is wrong with the American political system. The “Koch Brothers,” as they are commonly referred to, are billionaire brothers who own “Koch Industries,” the second largest company in the United States. The two brothers have essentially become the establishment of the Republican Party through political contributions, and therefore have been held up by various politicians, primarily by reformist Democrats, as the prime example of how corrupt the American political system is today. Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders often brings up the Koch brothers’ enormous influence over the Republican Party when pushing for campaign finance reform, as does Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren.

While the Koch brothers are certainly parasites that cause great harm to the American political system, they pale in comparison to Paul Singer, who is more commonly referred to as “The Vulture.” Singer is the founder of the hedge fund Elliot Management, which is valued at \$27 billion by Forbes. According to investigative journalist Greg Palast, Singer is the number one campaign contributor to the Republican Party today, not the Koch brothers. Forbes describes Elliot Management as a hedge fund that deals in distressed debt acquisitions.

Former Deputy of the United Nations Winston Tubman describes his business practice bluntly, and fairly, when he told Palast that Singer is in the business of “causing babies to die.”

What Tubman is referring to is

Singer’s actions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2005, while the Congo was in the midst of a civil war and a famine, as well as a cholera epidemic, Singer bought up \$10 million in old Congolese bonds that had been issued by a former dictator of the country, according to Palast. Singer then waited for aid-giving nations, such as the U.S., as well as the U.N., to grant the Congo relief money.

Once that relief money was granted, Singer seized this money and threatened to seize the entire nation’s assets unless he was paid \$200 million. He was eventually awarded \$127 million in international court by the Congo, according to Palast. Oxfam, an international organization dedicated to ending poverty and hunger, reported that \$127 million could’ve saved the lives of 250,000 children who died from Cholera in the Congo.

Yes, that is right. The man who was the number three overall contributor to the Republican Party in 2014—he contributed \$10,947,32—all to Republicans in 2014 according to Opensecrets.org—made a 117 million dollar profit at the expense of a quarter of a million Congolese children.

Singer is now looking to buy the White House. He originally threw his support, in the form of nearly two million dollars in campaign contributions, behind former candidate Marco Rubio. According to Palast, despite the fact that Rubio has since dropped out, Singer remains determined to ensure a Republican captures the White House.

Why? Well, since Republican tax policies against the billionaire class would be much friendlier than that of either Sanders or Hillary Clinton. Should they be elected, he is fearful of both Democratic candidates.

Sanders would not only look to pass legislation that would greatly

increase the tax rate amongst billionaires such as Singer, but would also likely pursue legal action against vulture financiers if elected president.

However, despite the fact that Sanders is the more progressive candidate, it may be Clinton that Singer is even more determined to defeat because of what happened in Argentina between Elliot Management and the U.S. State Department.

In Argentina, Singer followed a similar model to what he did in the Congo, buying up 50 million dollar in bonds issued by the military dictatorship nearly three decades ago, and demanded three billion dollars from the contemporary Argentine government. When the now former president of Argentina, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, refused to pay these “vulture funds,” as she called them, Singer both threatened once again to seize that assets of the country and also funded the conservative opposition party to defeat her in the then upcoming election, according to Palast. Singer was eventually awarded \$2.5 billion by the recently elected neo-liberal presiden Mauricio Marci, who was funded in large part by Singer. Though Singer eventually won, the country of Argentina found what some may consider an unlikely ally, when Clinton, who was the Secretary of the State at the time, stepped in on their behalf. Clinton—according to Palast—argued in a U.S. Federal court that Singer was committing extortion against the Argentine people, and that

he should be put out of business. Unfortunately, Clinton didn’t do this based off a moral stand against vulture capitalism, but rather because Singer’s actions and threats were making it nearly impossible for the government to make their default payments. According to Palast, this affected Citi Bank, Goldman Sachs, and JP Morgan since Argentina’s default payments were to these banks, so Clinton lobbied on behalf of these banks against Singer, which has made Singer declare war against Clinton’s presidency.

So, there you have it. One of the main financiers of the Republican Party has built his wealth by holding countries in the third or developing world hostage by seizing government assets, which then in part has caused death and suffering for the people of these countries. While the media and mainstream politicians continue to point to the Koch Brothers as the prime example of corruption in American politics, the vulture operates in the shadows, often leaving misery and suffering in his wake, and he will continue to do so unless the United States government takes a stand against Vulture capitalism. Since Singer is such a heavy donor to the Republican Party, don’t expect any bipartisan support for ending his toxic business practice any time soon.



Photo retrieved from creativecommons.org

## Old Main: In desperate need of a new coat of paint

**Sabrina White**  
Staff Writer

When I first applied to Saint Martin’s University (SMU), I was amazed by the beautiful campus and the large brick building, lovingly referred to as Old Main, which stands on the peak of the hill in the center of campus. I admired the architecture and history, and could not wait to start my college career in a place so beautiful and inviting.

Hearing stories from my aunt, an SMU alumni, I could imagine myself roaming the halls of this gorgeous brick building, with its immaculate interior and stunning views of the campus from the large, wood-framed windows. When I arrived for my campus tour, I only visited the second floor of Old Main, and I was pleased to see the stained glass pieces and beautiful hardwood floors of the offices.

The other floors of Old Main are a completely different story. My first day of classes brought me to the fourth floor, which was extremely disappointing. Every morning I walked past floors that sag

to the point where you notice the dip in the floor, rooms filled with mismatched furniture, desks that seemed to be built for small children, peeling paint in the stairways and classrooms and paint touch-ups that don’t match the rest of walls’ colors.

The third floor is the same story. More mismatched desks and furniture, walls in desperate need of a new coat of paint and the feeling that the building might come falling down quite soon. When I compare the state of the floors in Old Main to that of the sparkling new buildings, Harned and Cebula Hall, I feel that the care given to the floors of Old Main is lacking.

Sure, the exterior is something to be proud of, but neglecting to update or even make basic repairs to the interior of Old Main is disappointing, especially since I know the history of the building and all the hard work the previous monks of Saint Martin’s Abbey put in to making this school a beautiful place to live and learn.

The scariest part of Old Main is the elevator on the first floor, near

the cafeteria. I avoid riding it for fear of being trapped or dying in a fiery elevator crash. The loud bangs, groans and creaks coming from the elevator shaft and the struggle the elevator makes to get students to floors is frightening. Certificates inside the elevator show it has passed inspection, but I cannot help but feel completely unsafe as the smell of hot grease and sounds of grinding cables assault my senses.

Sitting in my math classroom, I find myself transfixed by the awful paint job of the windowsills and walls. Layers upon layers of messy paint cover the walls, peeling away in places where water has done damage. Sagging windows that are perpetually open allow water to leak in and let heat escape, probably costing the school a lot of money in terms of efficient heating and air conditioning throughout the building. The windows on every floor of Old Main seem to have this problem, but the upper floors are the worst.

I see pictures on display in the halls of Saint Martin’s in its early days and how beautiful the interior

of Old Main used to be. I understand that these repairs cost money and often take time to be completed, but many of these issues are simple and can be fixed in a very timely manner, like scraping the peeling paint off of walls and giving them a fresh coat. Tasks like these could be done over the summer when there are not many students present and not all of the rooms are in use. Replacing furniture is obviously a hefty cost, along with repairing or replacing windows, but I believe that it would be very beneficial in attracting students to SMU by offering them a clean, fresh and well-maintained facility to attend.

I feel that the neglect of Old Main will be detrimental to the future of the school. If we do not maintain the building, how long will it stay standing or offer a welcoming and safe place for students? I truly believe there are better ways for Saint Martin’s to use the money they have, like making these necessary repairs, and that we should consider trying to keep Old Main beautiful for many years to come.



# Community Events

## OLYMPIA FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS BOY AND THE WORLD FILM

April 9-30, 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

## A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES AT BUCK'S 5TH AVENUE LOFT GALLERY

April 10-16, 11a.m.-5p.m.  
209 5th Ave SE, Olympia  
Free!

## ON-FARM ORGANIC VEGGIE STAND

starts April 12, 12-4 p.m. Continues  
Tuesdays-Fridays during the growing  
season

## OLYMPIA PEOPLE'S OPEN MIC

April 14, 6-8 p.m.  
Poetry open-mic and featured poet  
every Thursday  
Slams 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the  
month

## COMMUNITY CLASS: DESIGN PRINCIPALS: AN INTRODUCTION

April 14, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.  
Foundational design elements presented  
through hands-on studio techniques  
At the Olympia Community Center

## SKYLINE

Starts April 15 and runs through the  
summer.  
Gates open at 7 p.m.  
Now showing: Zootopia (PG) and  
Star Wars: The Force Awakens  
(PG-13)

## OLYMPIA FOOD CO-OP COMMUNITY CLASS: THE MYTH AND MAGIC OF CLEANSING AND FASTING

April 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
\$7 per person  
2016 Elliott Ave NW,  
Olympia

## HARLEQUIN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: ELECTRICAL

April 17, 5 p.m.- 8 p.m.  
Olympia's Harlequin Theater  
announces their 2017 productions  
with games, wine and catered  
dinner. \$25 per person

# Make Pope Francis proud

**Lee Kaplan-Unsoeld**  
Staff Writer

*Editor's Note: This article is an opinion piece written by one of our staff writers at The Belltower. Although he is our staff writer, the views reflected in this piece are solely his own, and do not echo the views of The Belltower as a whole.*

With the President's spring update fresh in our inboxes, as well as a number of other emails regarding the ongoing attempts to unionize Saint Martin's University faculty and staff, I feel the need to reflect upon the current state of our university. As Abbot Neal Roth mentioned in his recent email to the faculty, "to be Benedictine is to listen." That includes listening to things people don't want to hear.

The ongoing attempt of SEIU (Service Employees International Union) Local 925 to unionize the

faculty and staff of SMU is not perfect, and in reading the emails sent out about this issue I can sense that tensions are high. I hope that SEIU takes care to foster a relationship of trust with the faculty and staff that they are seeking to represent, as well as the institution as a whole.

Moreover, the administration of our school needs to listen to the message that this unionizing attempt is sending. People are not satisfied with the governance at this school, and faculty and staff, although we don't know what percentage of them, are so dissatisfied that some of them have sought out other avenues to have their voices heard.

It doesn't surprise me too much, salaries at Saint Martin's are nothing to brag about. Data from 2014-15 compiled by The Chronicle of Higher Education shows that, of the 24 universities in Washington State for which they have reliable data

on salaries of full professors, SMU ranks 19th. The average salary for a nine month contract is \$65,034. Out of the 30 universities in Washington State with reliable data on the salaries of instructors, SMU ranks 26th. The average salary for a nine month contract is \$34,389. Again, this is nothing to brag about.

What might be something to brag about is the compensation of our administrators. President Roy Heynderickx, in 2014, received \$254,775 in reportable compensation and an estimated \$82,683 in "other compensation from the organization and other organizations."

The custodial staff, the maintenance workers, adjunct instructors, and even some of our lower ranked professors are not getting paid what their labor is worth, while our president is making a small fortune. So much for the Benedictine values of moderation and justice.

Administrators in universities all

over the world are consistently paid more than faculty and staff, and this paradigm breeds discontent almost everywhere it is found. Included in the president's Spring Update was the fact that tuition will again be raised for this coming year, this time by 3.5 percent. Will the president's salary be adjusted accordingly? We don't know, because it is not up to us, it is up to the Board of Trustees. Conveniently, those meetings are closed to students unless they are elected to ASSMU.

I suggest to the administration, the Abbey, and the Board of Trustees: Listen to the faculty and staff and students of SMU. Cut the exorbitant administrative salaries and redistribute that money to the rest of the school where it belongs. Uphold the Benedictine values that you throw around so loosely, and make Pope Francis proud.

## Letters to the Editor policies

Everyone is invited to submit Letters to the Editor (LTE) in response to previously published material, or about things not in the paper. All Letters to the Editor will be responded to either by personal response or in print in The Belltower as space allows.

1. All letters must be signed by the author to be published. Names can be withheld upon request of the author and at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief (EIC). They must have some credible contact information (email, telephone number and/or address) for notification and verification.
2. The Belltower reserves the right to edit letters for length and grammar.
3. Letters of questionable taste will be evaluated by the Editorial Team and in applicable situations will be voted on and handled as the Team sees fit.
4. Letters of questionable origin will not be published until confirmation of the author has been made.
5. As time permits, writers of letters will be contacted for confirmation.
6. The Belltower reserves the right to not publish letters deemed libelous, obscene, in poor taste, or otherwise unfit to print. The EIC will make this final decision upon consultation with the Editorial Team and the Faculty Adviser.
7. The Belltower reserves the right to print a selected number of LTEs. The EIC makes this decision on a case-by-case basis.



## Why we are organizing a union

Dear Belltower readers,

The following is a draft of a letter we are planning to send to all faculty explaining why we are organizing a union. We are also in the process of reaching out to staff at Saint Martin's and encouraging them to consider collective action.

The Catholic Church has long recognized union organizing as one of the essential means for the promotion of social justice. Beginning in "Rerum Novarum", the Church has consistently supported efforts of workers to join together to defend their rights and protect their dignity. Pope Leo XIII taught that the right of workers to choose to join a union was based on a natural right and that it was the government's obligation to protect that right rather than undermine it. This teaching has been affirmed consistently by his successors.

In this tradition, we have begun discussions with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), an organization with a long and impressive track record of helping faculty come together to improve working conditions and to restore the central importance of teaching and teachers to our academic institutions.

We have been impressed by the gains made by faculty at other

private universities through unionization. Forming a union with SEIU has resulted in a number of benefits for faculty: pay increases, improved job security, better processes for teaching assignments, fair and transparent evaluations, and access to more benefits. Above all, forming a union is a means to ensure that the faculty voice is heard and that faculty share in the kind of policy decisions that directly affect campus culture, scholarship and the quality of instruction.

The problems we face at Saint Martin's are not uncommon, but they are made uncommonly acute by management's consistent efforts to grow the institution while ignoring or deferring the needs of the people who work here. Nationally, faculty wages have stagnated since the mid-2000s, but at Saint Martin's the picture is unusually bleak.

Compared to wages at other small private institutions, faculty salaries at Saint Martin's are, and have been for many years, consistently at the bottom of the scale. Full professors make only an average of \$65,034 annually in one of the most expensive housing markets in the country. A typical full-time contingent professor earns only \$34,389 or 53 percent of what a full professor makes, despite having a full-time teaching load. Part-time contingent

professors, who constitute the majority of the faculty, are paid unconscionably low wages and are marginalized from the larger academic community they serve.

Our students cannot be unaware of this situation. Is this really the message we want to send them about the value of work and service?

Compared with other private, four-year, nonprofit institutions, Saint Martin's has the second lowest spending (35 percent of overall expenditures) on instruction in the state. Instead of investing in instruction, budgetary decisions are continually made without faculty input and transparency. Despite a revenue of \$35.5 million in fiscal year 2014-15 and a \$17.3 million dollar endowment, faculty and students live in an environment of austerity and are continually asked to "do more with less." Meanwhile, the compensation of the University president and other senior administrators continues to increase.

Again, we ask: how do you suppose our students feel about this?

For many years, faculty have put their best efforts into committee service and other forms of participation in shared governance – only to have our recommendations ignored or dismissed out of hand, and our complaints answered with vague promises of future improvements.

We are not abandoning dialogue with the administration – nor are we looking to bring in some anonymous "third party" to fight our battles for us. Forming a union simply means coming together as a faculty to negotiate the terms of our employment at this University. We believe that collective bargaining is an important next step in the evolution of shared governance at Saint Martin's, a way to stand up for what we're worth, demand inclusion in policymaking process, and claim a voice for quality education. Together, we can make Saint Martin's a better place to work and a stronger academic institution.

We are supported in our efforts by Saint Martin's Mission Statement and our Benedictine tradition. We must model that tradition by ensuring that all faculty – contingent and tenure-track, full-time and part-time – are treated with dignity and fairness, and we believe that unionization allows us to be visible models of Saint Martin's core values for our students.

In Solidarity,

The Saint Martin's University  
Faculty Organizing Committee



Photo courtesy of Melissa Wright



## A call for consensus: Unionization and our community

**Abbot Neal Roth, O.S.B.**  
*Chancellor*  
**Roy Heynderickx, Ph.D.**  
*President*  
**Molly Smith Ph.D.**  
*Provost*

Spring is a very special time at Saint Martin's, especially as so many members of our community prepare for our 11th Annual Dragon Boat Festival on April 30. We are humbled by the shared pride, passion, and coordinated work of the teams of diverse paddlers and as well as by the efforts of the many faculty, staff and students who work together to make this day a celebration of community. We are also reminded that in so many ways this extraordinary event symbolizes what makes Saint Martin's so unique.

We reflect especially on the teamwork of the dragon boaters and how each team, through collegial, compassionate collaboration and communication, works through adversity to power their boats. This is in contrast to the campaign by the

labor union attempting to disrupt a key component of Saint Martin's by unionizing your faculty. The university's leadership, including our governing Board of Trustees, does not support such an effort and wants you and our entire community to understand why.

While we deeply respect and value every faculty member, unionization is incompatible with our values, which constitute a collective responsibility to serve each constituent, starting with you, our students. As a small university that values personal interaction and collaboration, our current model of shared governance and direct communication among faculty, students, staff and the community promotes meaningful discussion and debate, often resulting in the goal of consensus. This should continue because this direct participation affords equality to each member of our community.

To be clear, your university's leadership is not anti-labor or insensitive to the needs of working men and women. The issue is not the concept of organized labor, but whether a

labor union is appropriate here, on a campus defined by our Benedictine commitment to listen to every voice. We believe that change to a union model would be antithetical to our belief system as well as our educational model. It would only serve to add layers of bureaucracy, and associated costs, to the decision-making process regarding faculty affairs, reduce operational flexibility, and compromise our ability to support academic excellence.

As you know, Saint Martin's is founded on the tenets of the "Rule of St. Benedict" and the community described in that text is what we strive for every day. Is ours a perfect process? No. We can and do strive to do better every day. But the processes we have put in place are designed to foster a deep strong respect and understanding for one another and the work that we each undertake in contributing to our university's success.

As a community with shared values and aspirations, let us continue this conversation, not stifle it. While we are now seeing some strained

conversations because of the polarizing tone taken by the campaign rhetoric, we will continue to engage in direct, fact-based, and respectful dialogue. Consistent with our mission, and in the spirit of transparency and inclusive decision-making, we will do all we can to enable each of our faculty and staff to formulate independent opinions and make informed choices. And we will continue to work on important issues, including compensation, which we have identified together as a firm priority in our new strategic plan. We make these efforts because we value our faculty and staff and prize their dedication to you, our students.

For more information on unionization efforts at Saint Martin's, visit <https://www.stmartin.edu/faculty-and-staff/saint-martins-university-and-unionization-efforts>.

As always, we will be available to intently listen and act in the best interest of every member of our unique community.



K1

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

April 11, 2016

SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY

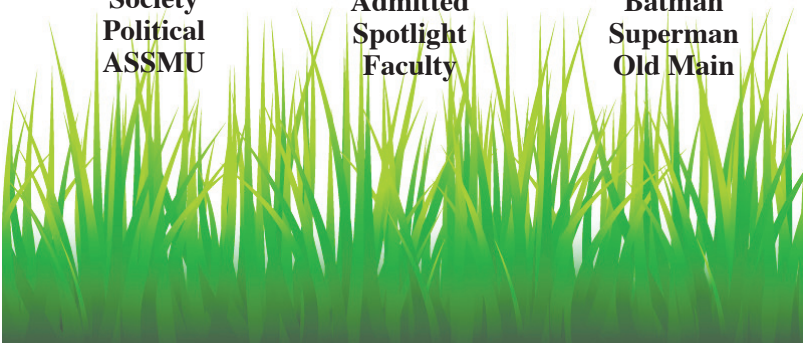
S P T C A N D I D A T E S C E  
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Find these words:

Candidates  
Green  
Society  
Political  
ASSMU

Graduation  
Voting  
Childcare  
Admitted  
Spotlight  
Faculty

Singer  
Swing  
Luau  
Batman  
Superman  
Old Main



word scramble

1. ipgrns
2. spilut
3. shensuni
4. urlmbael
5. mbiawo

Can you spot the 7 differences?



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