

## New Veteran’s Center: “The right thing to do”

Brian Messing  
Staff Writer

The new Veteran’s Center at Saint Martin’s University has officially been opened with the ceremonial ribbon cutting by Roy Heynderickx, Ph.D., President of Saint Martin’s. Heynderickx led the opening of the center on Friday Mar. 31. After the ribbon was cut with some rather large scissors, someone from the crowd shouted, “Those are military grade,” and everyone laughed.



Yunice Yamada participating in pull-up competition

The overall sentiment expressed at the ceremony was that it was “the right thing to do.” These thoughts were stated by Heynderickx in his address and by other veterans and community members who attended the opening ceremony.

Heynderickx stated the importance of reaching out to certain groups of our community here at Saint Martin’s University. Heynderickx noted

that having centers like the new Veteran’s Center and the upcoming Diversity Center are an important manifestation of this goal. He stated the importance of having a defined space for veterans, an integral part of both our national community and our community at Saint Martin’s.

Veteran students were happy to see the Veteran’s Center open. Duane Donovan, the Veterans Corps Navigator, stated that it was an achievement for veterans at Saint Martin’s University “after so many years” of trying to open a Veteran’s Center. Donovan also added that the Veteran’s Center is not only for veterans and “those using veteran benefits,” but also open to everybody.

The project, in addition to being done by veterans, was built with the intent of helping both veterans and our larger community at Saint Martin’s. Philip Cheek, Director of Facilities and a veteran himself, described the project as “giving back to the community.” Cheek also noted that a lot of the work for the Veteran’s Center was done by veterans including Wade Simmons and Vernon Randolph. When discussing this, Cheek said: “It was a cool project that was done in-house and it was cool to be able to involve veterans.”

Simmons and Randolph, two navy veterans, helped substantially with the electrical work, dry wall, painting and trim for the new Veteran’s Center. The two said it took them approximately a week and a half to complete the work, which included removing an entire wall and fixing



Photos courtesy of John Chaudes

The lounge is available for all students to spend time in.

the carpet to fit the space. The project was important to both of them and they each had their own thoughts on its completion. Simmons stated that his work was “done with love and pride” and that “we’re all brothers and sisters.” Randolph said that “It is good to see that the veterans have their own place.”

The new Veteran’s Center at Saint Martin’s University serves as a testament to our values as an institution and what we stand for. As stated by many, The Veteran’s Center is simply the right thing to do. It is important to give back to our community. We serve as an example for other institutions and how all veterans should be treated everywhere.

### Beauty and the Beast



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Photo courtesy of Blake Cloward

See page 8 for Veteran Andres Perez’s perspective on the opening of the new Veteran’s Center...

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# The Belltower

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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.*



Hello readers,

It is truly an honor to write to you, the Saint Martin’s community. In my past two years on the Belltower, I have spent late nights and early mornings in the office doing my best to create articles that appeal to the student body. I wish to have articles in the paper that start a conversation and make people question their own feelings. This is my goal as a section editor and writer alike. I strive to push my writers to write about issues that infuriate, hurt and encourage them. It is emotions like these that push the writers to put their heart into their work.

At the Belltower, we encourage the community of SMU to tell us what they would like to read about. As a staff, we wish to write about issues that everyone can take interest in. We love to hear about the goings-on of clubs, sports teams and individual students. Without clubs, sports teams and busy individuals, we would have nothing interesting to report.

In a time of an occasional distrust in “the media” by certain individuals, we affirm our vow to write true and relevant news. If you take issue with an article or certain details please e-mail us a “Letter to the Editor.” If you are interested in writing for us, visit our website, [www.belltowersmu.org](http://www.belltowersmu.org) to submit an application. We are always looking to further extend our staff.

Thank you,  
Katherine Pecora, 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 writers. If you see something newsworthy, turn it into a story.**

**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.**

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- All advertising must be consistant with Benedictine ideals, values, and teachings; i.e. it cannot condone or promote abortion services, reproduction services, sperm banks, contraceptives, or tobacco products.
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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.*

## Luau

**Mariah Partin**  
*Staff Writer*

The Saint Martins' Hawaii club has once again brought culture and hula to campus with their annual Luau. Hui 'O Hawai'i, the club's formal name, (meaning "the organization of Hawaii") hosted the annual Luau on April 1. The club worked hard preparing for the luau and the event brought Polynesian history and culture to Saint Martin's Marcus Pavilion.

Jase Kugiya, Hawaii club President and Social Work major at Saint Martin's University, stated, "The purpose of our club is to celebrate the Hawaiian culture and spread the Aloha spirit. We do our best to share a piece of our culture through our music, hula, and food."

Traditional Hawaiian dishes as well as local favorites, including Kalua pig, lomi lomi salmon, shoyu chicken, macaroni salad, and poi were served at the event. Poi is made from the taro root, and is a part of Native Hawaiian cuisine so as you can imagine, it's not something you'll commonly find around here. Another aspect of the luau are the hula performances in the styles of Kahiko and Auana, as well as a few Tahitian and Samoan style performances. Before the

event took place, the Hawaii club had been hosting weekly practices to prepare for this highly anticipated event and encouraged anyone to join in on the classes.

The community was invited to attend the luau, as there were engaging activities along with the



Saint Martin's luau dancers practicing a traditional Hawaiian dance.

delicious food and exciting entertainment.

As Kugiya said, "It is also our goal as a club to create a safe place, if you will, where people from Hawaii and Polynesia find comfort. Ideally, my vision for this club going forward, is to educate Saint Martin's University of Hawaii's

rich history dating back way before the illegal overthrow of our Hawaiian kingdom."

It is the Hawaii club's goal to educate fellow students and the community at large about Polynesian culture through their annual luau. Kugiya said that he learned from two distinguished Saint Martin's University Alumni, that students from Hawaii have been hosting luau-type events at school since the sixties.

## Where is your tuition money spent?

**Abigail Lowrie**  
*Layout Assistant*

A big step in the college selection process is weighing the cost of tuition at each school you have been accepted to. Each school has something different to offer perspective students, but every student is concerned with how much debt they're going to leave college with. Here at Saint Martin's, the 2016-2017 total cost of attendance, listed on the website, was a hefty \$44,456.

Although this total cost includes charges such as housing, meal plans, an activity fee, health center fee, enrollment deposit and a room damage deposit, tuition itself costs \$33,950. Students all pay the same overall tuition, but financial aid and scholarships from public or private organizations help lower the out of pocket expensive. The average net price after awards are paid out is \$20,765. But where is that nearly \$21,000 spent?

Feedback shows that students do not know where tuition is spent. Students were intrigued when asked where they thought the money goes, and surprised that they were never given any solid information on the subject.

Freshman psychology major Garrett Miller said, "I know some of it goes to the website, I guess I assume it probably goes to things like events on campus for students, maybe teaching dollars? Wages for employees on the campus, other than that I'm not really sure. Maybe to equipment in the gym? They never really go into detail on where my tuition money goes."

Students are never handed a sheet of paper that directly tells them where their tuition dollars are spent, and to their own surprise, they never second guessed it before they paid.

April Scott, a junior majoring in political science and criminal justice stated, "I think that my tuition money goes towards school and they use the money to help benefit Saint Martin's, at least I hope that is what they use it for."

Most students receive a scholarship

from Saint Martin's directly when accepted, making it more feasible to attend such a prestigious school. But not all funding comes strictly from the university itself. Students use a wide range of scholarships to pay for school, such as the college bound scholarships, a military parents' G.I. Bill or scholarships earned from high school "dollars for scholars" fundraisers.

"I have four years of G.I. Bill," Miller said. Jacob Rogers, freshman, agreed, "I use the G.I. Bill too." However, Scott does not.

"I have scholarships and financial aid that comes to my tuition so roughly a year I would only pay around \$16,000," Scott said.

Students like Scott who pay monthly receive a bill with a tuition payment charge. Seeing this monthly makes Scott wonder what the money is continuously paying for.

So, is there a breakdown of tuition dollars? On the Saint Martin's website, there is only a chart showing the overall fees and cost of attendance for on and off campus students. There is no further explanation as to where the money is divided and spent.

Edward Barton, the Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance and Fiscal Operations at Saint Martin's shared his knowledge of how tuition dollars are spent. According to the Saint Martin's University Employee Handbook, there are two committees that decide where the money will go. There is a Budget Committee, which prioritizes the short-term spending, and the Board of Long Term Planning, which prioritizes the spending for the long term.

The agenda of the Board of Long Term Planning meetings can be broken into four simple questions:

What was spent last year?

Which programs are growing/losing interest?

Are there any majors we can let go of to add new majors?

Which major will have the most students?

Following these questions, the

Board of Long Term Planning can create a budget and decide where money will be spent. While the initial budget is drafted in May with the expected student enrollment, it is revised in October. To know how much money can be spent, the exact student enrollment count and amount of funding coming in is necessary.

When there is a spike in one major and a drop in another, money is shifted from the less popular major to support the popular one. An example of this is the growth in engineering and the decline in the community service major. Community service is no longer available as a major, so the funds that supported it are now being spent on an existing major that needs funding.

Barton explained, "no financial decision is made by one person, there is a system of 'checks and balances' through which the board will vote on where to spend money. All money is put toward students and their experience at Saint Martin's as much as possible. We made about \$42 million in tuition and fees in 2016, then gave out \$17 million in scholarships." All the financial information for Saint Martin's is open to the public, and any student can access it at any time, including information about salaries of employees, sum of tuition, scholarships paid out and even money lost.

Many students don't know where to find the financial information Saint Martin's releases to the public. It is all on the website and any student can view it, ask questions or even protest something they believe money is being wasted on.

"We try to be as transparent as possible, and considering 95 percent of our funding is from students, they have the right to know where their money is being spent," Barton said.

The Saint Martin's Finance Office webpage provides links to the University 990 tax forms from 2006 through 2014 and annual financial reports from the fiscal years 2008 through 2016. There is also a link to the Saint Martin's University Commonly Used Object Accounts

to provide the reader with the object account, title and description so they can better understand where money is spent. If you'd like to see how our staff is treated when they travel on behalf of the university, the travel policy is public information. This includes how money is spent, and who is responsible for certain charges.

Students interested in further pursuing where their money goes can visit the Saint Martin's Finance Office webpage to explore the public record documents. Links are provided at [belltowersmu.org](http://belltowersmu.org).

While the tuition cost is anything but cheap, the money is going back to the student in more ways than they may realize. The investment in an education at Saint Martin's provides services such as:

- Study abroad opportunities
- Student Resources
- ASSMU
- Athletics
- The Career center
- The Center for Learning, Writing and Advising
- Counseling services
- Health services
- Housing
- Meal Plans
- Program Improvements
- Public Safety
- Tech support
- The REC center
- The TUB

When students are provided with "free" unlimited use of tutoring, peer reading, academic support and counseling services, this is because the tuition is paying for these services to ensure student success. This money is used to pay for professor salaries ensuring that students get the best education from the best teachers, and for the salaries of student employees.

Tuition may not be talked about in terms of where it is spent directly with students, but the information is out there.

## World news at a glance

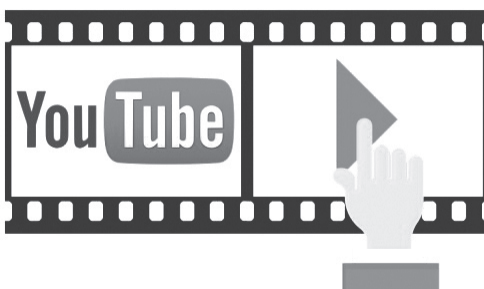
Saki Mino  
Staff Writer



**Attacker on London's Westminster Bridge uses WhatsApp before attack**

On Sunday, March 26, a top British security official announced that Westminster bridge attacker Khalid Masood sent an encrypted message through Facebook's WhatsApp right before running a rented SUV into pedestrians, killing three and injuring dozens more. After rushing through the gates of parliament, Masood proceeded to fatally stab a police officer before he was shot by other law enforcement on the scene. Following the attack, Home Secretary Amber Rudd expressed the need for immediate action to make the platforms of WhatsApp and other encrypted services more accessible to intelligence services or police trying to carry out lawful eavesdropping.

"We need to make sure that organizations like WhatsApp — and there are plenty of others like that — don't provide a secret place for terrorists to communicate with each other," Rudd said. This incident resembled similar incidences of law enforcements demanding access to data after major attacks, much like when the FBI requested the passcodes from Apple needed to unlock criminal evidence in an iPhone. Unfortunately, due to the developed technology system, terrorists would still be able to communicate with one another illegally. Rudd also urged technology companies to take preventative measures when it comes to the publication of material that promotes radicalism. She hopes to set up an industry board that will help to make the web less useful to extremists.



**YouTube's major advertisers withdraw after advertisements play before pro-terror videos**

The advertisements promoting terrorism on YouTube have caused quite a fuss among AT&T, Verizon and several other of the site's major advertisers. The YouTube boycott started after an investigation by The Times in London, while causing these advertisers to suspend their marketing campaigns on the site.

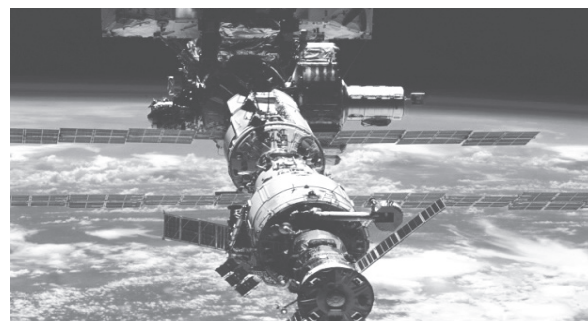
YouTube's popularity all over the world is immense—with nearly 400 hours of video posted each minute. Google has depended on automated programs to place ads in YouTube videos.

"We know that this is unacceptable to the advertisers and agencies who put their trust in us," Philipp Schindler, Google's chief business officer, mentioned in a blog post. He promised to hire 'significant numbers' of employees to review YouTube videos and flag them as inappropriate for ads. This is in response to his assumption that Google's recent advancements in artificial intelligence would have resolved the issue.

AT&T and other advertisers have not yet agreed with this resolution.

"We are deeply concerned that our ads may have appeared alongside YouTube content promoting terrorism and hate," AT&T said. "Until Google can ensure this won't happen again, we are removing our ads from Google's non-search platforms."

The spreading boycott is a challenge on Google's ad system which generated \$79 billion in revenue last year.



**International Space Station receives a new docking station**

Spacewalking astronauts conducted a practice for the new parking spot at the international space developing plan, adding commercial crew capsules to the station on Friday, March 24. According to Mission Control, the construction of the new docking station has been making satisfactory progress through all complex operations. Shane Kimbrough, the station's commander, worked on the docking port and replaced a computer-relay box. Flight controllers in Houston plan to move and secure the old port for the better clearance to future visiting crafts. NASA is planning to add a new docking space to incoming astronauts. NASA plans on conducting two or more space walks before Kimbrough returns to Earth on April 10. The space agency has been developed by great astronauts and technical experts from all over the world.

"It will be exciting to see a new way to bring crew members into orbit," NASA astronaut Robert Behnken said from Mission Control. He is among four astronauts training for the Dragon and Starliner test flights.

## A breakdown of Trump's surveillance claims

Evan Lake  
Staff Writer

On March 4, President Donald Trump claimed over Twitter that former President Barack Obama "had [his] 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower" prior to the election. Trump referred to Obama as a "bad (or sick) guy" and made comparisons to McCarthyism and Watergate. The following day, the White House appealed Congress to investigate whether the previous administration conducted illegal surveillance efforts.

Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, addressed reporters on Capitol Hill on March 15, stating, "we don't have any evidence" that the phone tapping occurred. He personally rejected the allegations, saying, "I don't think there was an actual tap of Trump Tower."

On March 16, Trump appeared on Fox News and suggested that he had used the term "wire-tap" in reference to surveillance in general.

"Wiretap covers a lot of different things," Trump said. "I think you're going to find some very interesting items coming to the forefront over the next two weeks." Trump further claimed that the White House planned to submit evidence for consideration by the House Intelligence Committee.

In a public hearing before the House committee on March 20, F.B.I. Director James Comey stated, "With respect to the President's tweets about alleged wiretapping directed at him by the prior administration, I have no information that supports those tweets."

On March 21, Nunes was prompted to

review intelligence reports at the White House by an undisclosed source. The visit was not initially known to the public. The next day, Nunes briefed Trump about the reports and then held a press conference in which he claimed that "incidental collection," had been conducted under the Obama administration. According to Nunes, information about members of Trump's transition team could have been legally gathered as part of foreign intelligence collection.

Nunes briefed Trump without consulting the House Intelligence Committee even though Trump may be a potential subject for investigation himself. Nunes defended his actions as independent of the committee's investigation of information pertaining to Russia. Nunes said, "the president needs to know these intelligence reports are out there and I have a duty to tell him that."

When asked if he felt vindicated, Trump replied, "I must tell you, I somewhat do." During a press conference later that day, leading Democratic member of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Adam B. Schiff (Calif.), criticized Nunes for speaking to Trump before committee members.

On March 27, news of Nunes' visit to the White House surfaced, prompting Democrats to call for Nunes to recuse himself from the House Intelligence Committee or resign. On March 30. The New York Times reported that Nunes' unknown sources were identified as White House officials: "Ezra Cohen-Watnick, the senior director for intelligence at the National Security Council and Michael Ellis, a lawyer who works on national security issues at the White House

Counsel's Office and was previously counsel to Mr. Nunes's committee." According to the report, Cohen-Watnick first discovered the intelligence, and Ellis permitted Nunes to examine it.

Also according to the report, "One official with direct knowledge of the events said Mr. Cohen-Watnick began combing through intelligence reports this month in an effort to find evidence that would justify Mr. Trump's Twitter posts about wiretapping."

A CBS poll from March 29 shows that 74 percent of Republicans think that Trump's offices were likely wiretapped or surveilled, whereas 74 percent of Democrats don't find it likely.



**President Donald J. Trump signing an executive order in January**

Photo retrieved from creativecommons.org

# Katya Shkurkin celebrates retirement after 18 years at Saint Martin's

**Saki Mino**  
Staff Writer

Photos courtesy of Katya Shkurkin



Professor Katya Shkurkin, Ph.D., has worked at Saint Martin's for 18 years.

Professor Katya Shkurkin, Ph.D., Director of Social Work and Community Services Programs has been teaching at Saint Martin's University for 18 years and will be retiring at the end of this semester. While at Saint Martin's University (SMU), Dr. Shkurkin worked on the social work curriculum, modeling it after the Council on Social Work Education competencies and requirements. Students majoring in social work and psychology have deeply appreciated her teaching and mentoring.

Shkurkin has over 34 years of experience as a therapist and clinical social worker, as well as a trainer and educator. In those years, she worked with many groups of people

needing some form of social support, including college students, military families, elders and LG-BTQA individuals. This is not the end of her working career however. She has been offered a position at Community Youth Services in Olympia, as the Program Director of their Transitional Youth Program. The program provides mental health counseling and wrap-around intensive case management services for youth between the ages 15 - 24 years on Medicaid insurance.

In her past 18 years at SMU, Shkurkin has seen three presidents, five Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, and many changes in faculty and staff.

"I was hired at a time when we were at the cusp of many big changes. I was lucky to have Professor Norma Shelan (now Emeritus) as my direct supervisor, who trained and mentored me at Saint Martin's. When she retired 10 years ago, and I was promoted into the position of

Director of the Community Services Program, I really understood how much of a protective bubble she had created for me. I will always be grateful to her," Shkurkin recalled.

Shkurkin has been given many significant honors in her career. She was given a Fulbright Scholar's grant for a semester in Riga, Latvia from August - December 2004, where she taught five courses in a Latvian school of social work.

"I was able to meet social workers and therapists from all over Latvia, participate in scholarly research (later published), was part of creating an International Social Work concentration between Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuanian schools of social work, and presented at the International Conference for Human Trafficking in December of 2004. It was a life-changing experience, and I was able to connect with cousins from the Latvian part of our family, which was priceless," she said.

Other honors have included being

chosen by students to give the inaugural "Last Lecture," being nominated seven times for Faculty of the Year, and being chosen by ASSMU to receive the Doug Ford award. Her career of service has included participating on many committees, traveling with admissions for recruiting students, especially from community colleges, and being the President of the Faculty Senate.

Shkurkin feels that her greatest accomplishment has been building the Bachelor in Social Work program, and taking it through the four-year process to become accredited.

"This was the biggest gift that I could give to my students and to the Saint Martin's community: a viable professional program that would meet the training needs of future social workers. It is something that I have been passionate about: training these strong, compassionate students, who are focused on social justice and service to their world, a solid foundation with which to enter the work force and academically prepared for graduate school. I am so grateful that I can leave this program in the very capable hands of Dr. Tam Dinh. If she wasn't here, my leaving would be a great deal harder," she said, smiling.

Her teachings will forever be treasured, and her contribution to the lives of Saint Martin's students can never be measured. Happy retirement, Dr. Shkurkin!



Dr. Shkurkin helped to form the Bachelor in Social Work program.

## American Healthcare Act withdrawn

**Brian Messing**  
Staff Writer

On Friday, March 24, one of President Trump's major legislative initiatives was withdrawn due to lack of Republican support in the House of Representatives. The American Healthcare Act was revealed by Republicans in early March as the legislation to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's health care law, "Obamacare," a campaign promise dating back to 2010. Republicans won the House of Representatives in 2010, the Senate in 2014 and the Presidency in 2016, along with many other governorships and state legislatures throughout the same time period on the promise of repealing and replacing "Obamacare."

The American Healthcare Act reflects how President Trump

believes the U.S. healthcare system should function although he never adopted a clear healthcare policy during the campaign. Trump wavered between opposing government involvement in healthcare to advocating for single-payer healthcare, according to an article on the Townhall website. However, Trump was consistent in his disapproval of "Obamacare" perhaps due to the Republican Party's position and the position of many moderates during the campaign, according to pollingreport.com.

The American Healthcare Act would not have repealed all of "Obamacare," something that many Republicans had wanted since 2010. Instead, the American Healthcare Act would have repealed certain key provisions of the "Obamacare," such as the individual mandate for Americans to buy insurance and the taxes on wealth individuals and investment income; altered certain provisions such as switching from an income based tax credit system to an aged based tax credit system; and kept certain provisions such as prohibiting insurers from discriminating against those with pre-existing conditions and allowing dependents to stay on their parents plan until they turn 26.

The reaction to the American Healthcare Act exposed both inter-partisan and intra-partisan tensions. All Democrats opposed the American Healthcare Act, instead favoring the existing law or advocating for single-payer healthcare.

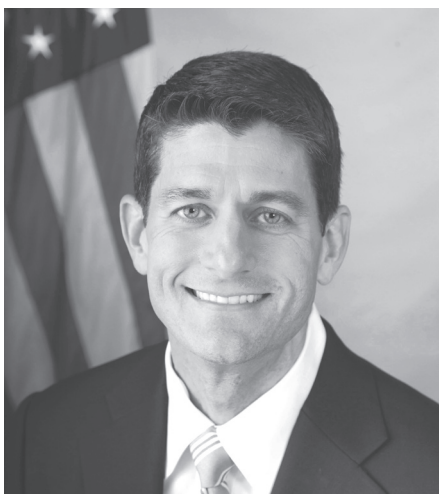


President Donald Trump had made numerous claims that he would repeal and replace "Obamacare" if elected.

Republicans were split between supporting the American Healthcare Act or supporting a clean repeal of "Obamacare."

Opposition within the Republican Party was strongest from the Freedom Caucus, made up of the most conservative members of the Republican Party. Members of the Freedom Caucus were the most vocal about wanting a clean repeal of "Obamacare." There was some opposition from moderate Republicans who were concerned about the potential for loss of coverage among their constituents. The Republican leadership under Speaker Paul Ryan was in support of the bill. This hurt the bill in some ways, making it appear to be "drawn up in the swamps," as quoted by the President.

Ultimately, the Republican Party faced issues when a growing number of Republicans refused to support the Healthcare initiative in the House of Representatives. There were suggestions that the vote should be delayed by Speaker Ryan to allow for more persuasion among certain Republicans, however President Trump issued an ultimatum on March 23 to either vote on the bill by March 24 or he would move on to other legislative priorities. Speaker Ryan ultimately withdrew the bill and the future of American healthcare remains a question.



Speaker of the House Paul Ryan's support hurt the bill

Photos retrieved from creativecommons.org

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Angela McCaskill

Taylor Gersch  
Staff Writer



Photo retrieved from smartin.edu

Professor Angela McCaskill, Ph.D., started teaching at Saint Martin’s in 2016

Professor Angela McCaskill, Ph.D., has taught accounting classes as well as classes for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program for three semesters at Saint Martin’s. She specializes in managerial accounting, cost accounting, international business, and managerial accounting for decision makers.

How long have you been at SMU?

I’ve been at SMU since January 2016. I was officially supposed to start in the fall of 2015, however, my house burned down in April 2015 and so I spent the majority of 2015 rebuilding it and therefore had to delay my arrival by a semester.

What was your career before SMU?

I spent my entire career in the corporate world as an accountant. I’ve held positions such as staff accountant, Director of Finance, Business Manager, and Corporate controller. I also taught as an adjunct for a few universities in Virginia before coming to Saint Martin’s University.

Where did you attend college and what did you study?

I received my bachelor’s degree in accounting from Saint Martin’s University. Yes I am an alumni! I got my MBA, Master of Accounting and Ph.D in International Business from various universities in Virginia.

What is your favorite subject to teach and why?

That’s a tough question since I love teaching accounting (as weird as that might sound since most people don’t like the subject!), but I also love teaching international business. I love teaching managerial and cost accounting because that is where I have most of my work experience so I can bring to the classroom the theory we teach but also the real-world application of the subject. For international business, I love cultures and how they influence everything we do in life including how we act and interact with the world around us. Teaching this and helping students view themselves as part of a global society is something that gives me a lot of joy.

Why did you become a teacher?

I became a teacher because I felt called to do it. I had been working in the industry for so long and teaching as an adjunct at night. I’d discovered that teaching filled me with a sense of purpose that working as an accountant never did and so I decided to go for a full-time position and teach.

What inspires you most about teaching?

Seeing my students learn the material and know that I’m helping them with their future careers even in a small way inspires me

the most. I love teaching because I get satisfaction from seeing my students succeed.

What are your plans for the future?

I would first love to be reunited with my children. They are in Virginia waiting for me to bring them here so that is my immediate plan. Longer term I plan to teach in France next summer and one day I’d love to spend a year or more there teaching. As many know I speak French so this just seems like a perfect fit for me.

What do you want to see changed within the education system?

First I’d like to see teachers teach all students according to their individual needs and provide them examples that they can relate to. I’d also say that we allow students way too much leeway with technology in the classroom. Take laptops for example. When students have laptops in front of them they are interacting more with the laptops than they are with the teacher. Then students wonder why they aren’t understanding the material. If they’re busy on Facebook how can they be learning? I don’t rely on the assumption that all the burden falls on the student to learn, however, if the students aren’t meeting me halfway then that’s on them.

What advice do you have for graduating seniors entering the workforce?

Spend time doing something that you’re passionate about. If you love what you do, then the rest will fall into place. Be open for the improbable because you can never plan for everything that may happen in your life so be flexible

to take it as it comes. This has not been an easy one for me to follow, but never be so faithful in your plans that you are unwilling or unable to consider the unexpected that might happen in your life. When “life happens” or you hit a bump or two, (sometimes bumps hit you) take them with grace and strength and think of the challenges as learning experiences. Move on, regroup and be resilient, sometimes those bumps teach us more about ourselves than we thought we knew.

Student Responses

The students taking classes from McCaskill have had positive things to say about her teaching. Senior business major Abby Maneman explained that she has enjoyed McCaskill’s classes.

“She is a great teacher who cares deeply about her students,” said Maneman.

Senior computer science major Camryn Althaus expressed, “McCaskill is one of those professors when you look back on your college career you think of her class as being a pivotal part in your education. The passion that she has for the subject that she is teaching is infectious, she inspires students to learn and is dedicated to making sure everyone has all the tools necessary to succeed.”

In addition, senior business major Kaleb Strawn explained, “Dr. McCaskill brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to her class. I really enjoyed her teaching approach that emphasized hand on student learning. Allowing students the freedom to experiment with the material we were learning invoked incredible insight from our class.”

The future of private colleges

Evan Lake  
Staff Writer

If you’re reading this sentence, chances are you have some vested interest in the financial future of a certain private college. If you weren’t confident in the success of said educational institution, you wouldn’t be wagering your annual tuition fee on it, now would you?

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), there are nearly 4,200 institutions of higher education in the U.S. NCES tracked college closures between 1990 and 2014. On average, almost six colleges closed each year. Most were private nonprofits, as these institutions heavily depend upon donations and reliable enrollment rates. As a result, they are usually the most vulnerable to drops in college admission.

These colleges cover operating costs by relying on an endowment, money raised from donations and investments. Endowments can also cover expenses in case there’s a low-enrollment year which takes in less tuition.

Growing admission is essential to the financial stability needed to fund academic programs, faculty salaries and campus activities. Of course, spending money on these aspects of higher education is often necessary to attract more students. Admission rates frequently correlate with high school graduation rates, which have been gaining recently. In

October, former President Obama announced that the 2014-2015 school year saw 83 percent of high school students graduate, which is part of a five-year record high.

However, you might be surprised to learn that despite an increasing number of high school graduates, college enrollment is not experiencing the same upward growth. According to NCES, the total enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the U.S. is currently on a slight downward trend. From 2010 to 2014, the number of students dropped from 21 million to 20.2 million. Examining the difference between 2013 and 2014 shows a more gradual drop of less than 200,000 students.

Many factors influence an early high school graduate’s decision to attend college. Generally, more high school graduates go straight to the workplace when the economy is strong, as they see opportunity in immediate employment. However, many interested in higher-earning occupations recognize the growing need for technical training and education. Saint Martin’s has recognized opportunities for attracting students in the past. According to Thurston Talk, the university responded to an anticipated increase in market demand for nurses with a bachelor’s degree in nursing (BSN) by “creating the RN to BSN program that started fall semester of 2012.”

But determining the financial success of a college is not just the calculation of market appeal and increasing student enrollment by attracting

moths to a candle. Financial responsibility is another predictor of success. The Higher Education Act of 1965, according to Federal Student Aid, “requires for-profit and non-profit institutions to annually submit audited financial statements to the Department [of Education] to demonstrate they are maintaining the standards of financial responsibility necessary to participate in the Title IV programs.”

Title IV programs are federal student aid provided through loans, grants and federal work-study. In order to determine an educational institution’s eligibility for federal student aid, the Department of Education created a measurement called a “financial responsibility composite score.” The composite score is derived from three ratios found using financial documents collected from the institution: “a primary reserve ratio, an equity ratio, and a net income ratio.” Once determined, the composite score is used to “gauge the fundamental elements of the financial health of an institution.”

The scores range from -1.0 to 3.0, while “A score greater than or equal to 1.5 indicates the institution is considered financially responsible.”

According to information gathered from Federal Student Aid, Saint Martin’s University scored a 1.6 in June, 2015 (the most recent record available). For quick reference, Pacific Lutheran University scored a 2.0, Seattle University a 2.6 and Trinity Lutheran College a .6.

Music @ Noon and all that jazz

Rebecca Robinson  
Staff Writer

Local jazz vocalist and composer Elliot Weeks was invited this past March to perform during “Music @ Noon,” a program on campus founded by Saint Martin’s University’s (SMU) music professor and choir director, Darrell Born. Weeks is an award-winning musician from Olympia, Wash. and received his master’s degree in Jazz Vocal Performance from the University of Miami in 2016.

Weeks proved his mastery in the art of jazz during the humble performance he gave to an intimate group room of Saint Martin’s student and faculty. He chose to play a selection of songs from “The Great American Songbook” which is known for publishing some of the most important and influential jazz tunes from the 20th century. Claudia Simpson-Jones, music lecturer at SMU, accompanied Weeks on an ancient looking vertical piano appropriately nicknamed “Old White.” While Simpson-Jones provided the bass, Weeks played the keys on a grand piano and sang each piece with vocals that have clearly been trained in traditional and popular jazz styles.

Weeks’s set consisted mostly of

renditions with some improvisation of highly acclaimed tunes such as Ella Fitzgerald’s “Love is Here

geniuses were crammed together, separated by walls made of cardboard,” Weeks went on. “Everyone

you think about it too much,” he laughed, lightening the mood.

Weeks ended his set with Irving Berlin’s greatest hit, “Blue Skies.” The rendition perfectly embodied the elements of early 20th century jazz in America: colorful improvisations, freedom of vocal expression and the ability to make playing the tune look like the easiest thing in the world.



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Robinson

Elliot Weeks plays for the Saint Martin’s community

to Stay.” In between songs, Weeks gave anecdotes about the origins of song, or a few factual notes on the history of jazz.

“This next piece is a prime example of a song that was produced in Tin Pan Alley,” Weeks said, referring to the tune “Alone Together” written by renowned jazz composer Arthur Schwartz. “Fifty musical

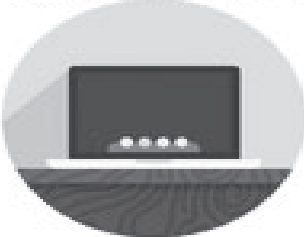
was stealing from each other. Most of the songs being composed used the same devices, but with a different flare.”

Weeks introduced Nat King Cole’s “For All We Know” with a thoughtful remark: “It’s interesting lyrically. What is life isn’t real, maybe it’s just a dream...” Weeks trailed off. “Which is a little bit creepy if



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“Beauty and The Beast” movie review

Breanna Brink  
Staff Writer

Director Bill Condon’s “Beauty and the Beast” is a PG rated, two hour and nine minute family fantasy musical that is beautiful, but seemed to be trying too hard. Released on March 17, this film experienced a 500 million-dollar opening weekend. Though the film itself isn’t terrible, it has widely received high Cs or low Bs by critics and rating websites. However, but if you ask your little sister or mother about it, they will most likely love this film to pieces, through nostalgia-tinted glasses of course.

Frame by frame, this movie attempts to remake the imagery from its original position. The film does its job. It will give you an appreciation for the original movie, and will remind you why you loved “Beauty and the Beast.” However, in an attempt to make the Beast more sympathetic, the scenes come across as rushed, similar to the scenes involving Belle’s past. Are they well-preformed and well-written? Yes. Are they necessary, plot driving, or ever brought up in the film again? No. The padding this film adds to the original cuts out the mastery of its inspiration. Musicals have a dangerous tightrope to walk, and need to learn when to have a quiet moment to let the impact of a scene sink in, not “sing” the point deep into your mind like a drill.



Photo retrieved from creativecommons.org

The new “Beauty and the Beast” film was released on March 16, 2017.

But let’s discuss the main characters themselves. As described by the Disney website, “Belle (Emma Watson), a bright, beautiful and

independent young woman, taken prisoner by a beast (Dan Stevens) in its castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle’s enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the beast’s hideous exterior, allowing her to recognize the kind heart and soul of the true prince that hides on the inside.” The acting in this movie is the best it can be. Luke Evan’s Gaston is played up for both laughs and seriousness, coming across as an intimidating villain with his usual well-rounded creepy vibe. Emma Watson, with the savior of auto-tune, acts her way through a CGI wonderland as convincingly as anyone could, portraying Belle in her quirky but cute manner. Even Dan Stevens, who is primarily donned in a CGI cloak the entire film, does wonders for his part, bringing a bit of snark and sass to the roll.

But of course, the side cast steals the entire show. The castle itself is alive with creative designs, beautiful voices and hilarious lines that would make Walt Disney proud. The relationship between a candelabra and a clock is truly entertaining to watch, and the wide variety of people cast into this film is incredible.

Beauty and the Beast deserved its ratings. Despite it not being the best remake we have had, if it gives you the inspiration to re-watch the original film, it has done its job.

Besides...Who can say no to Gaston?

## A look at women's history month through social media

**Rebecca Robinson**  
Staff Writer

Unless you have been living under a Wi-Fi free rock during the month of March, you were probably aware that it was Women's National History Month (WHM). On March 8, International Women's Day, social media sites were flooded with posts celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

Many influential women posted on social media #internationalwomensday, including Emma Watson, actor and UN Women Global Goodwill Ambassador. Watson is an active advocate for women's rights. She runs a campaign with the slogan, "A day without a woman is a day without me." Watson uses Instagram as a medium to inform her 27.2 million followers about the ongoing struggle for women's equality. Many of her posts feature famous women who have made history, including Eleanor Roosevelt,

the longest-serving first lady in U.S. history and the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Harriet Tubman, American abolitionist, humanitarian, and active participant in the struggle for women's suffrage, and more.

During WHM, a viral post going around on Twitter shed light on "hidden figures," female scientists whose achievements in the field of space travel helped us to be where we are as a society today. One particular "hidden figure" in history is engineer Raye Montague, a black woman who was given a task by President Richard Nixon to revolutionize the design process for all ships and submarines in one month. Montague accepted the task, and completed it in 18 hours and 26 minutes. She was awarded and respected for her work, but her name is never seen alongside other influential women in history, such as Amelia Earhart, who was the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. WHM is



Rosie the Riveter is a common symbol for women's empowerment.

truly a time to celebrate the women through history and even in one's own life no matter how small.

Another ad ran this past month centering on Millie Dresselhaus who is known as the "queen of carbon science." The ad ran for

General Electric and posed the question: what if we treated female scientists the same way we treat celebrities? The ad goes through a town following Dresselhaus, showing the people of the town fawning over her for her accomplishments. This is an important ad to run. It showcased young girls dressing up like Dresselhaus for Halloween. Ads like this that show girls that fame is one thing, but hard work and an education are paramount.

Social media and the global web have been rich and flourishing in the diverse celebration and activity during WHM. On International Women's Day, Google participated by changing its "Google Doodle" on its global search pages in honor of International Women's Day. Thanks to the ever-evolving-technology of social media, women from all around the world can now connect, discuss and most importantly, continue to move women's rights and equality forward.

## Monk of the Month: Father Peter

**Mariah Partin**  
Staff Writer

Surely you've seen him around campus, turning the pages of the beautifully illustrated Bible in the library or walking briskly up to Old Main. Father Peter Tynan, Chaplain and discovery services librarian, came to Saint Martin's University (SMU) all the way from Fairbury, Nebraska. He has been a monk here for 14 years. When asked why he decided to become a monk at SMU, Father Peter replied that it was his desire to serve God.

"I knew that I wanted people to hold me accountable, I wanted the structure and the support of a Monastic community, and Washington is a beautiful place to be."

Father Peter does some important

work at Saint Martin's University. His office is in the library as he works with the special collections downstairs. He describes it as a fun job. He gets to show off the pieces to church and school groups. Father Peter described the special collections as intricate historical documents held in our very own library. He is tasked with explaining the importance of these documents and ensuring that these sacred pieces of history stay safe. The books need to be enclosed in Mylar and sent to be rebound when necessary. Many of the rare books are kept in the vault.

Father Peter brought out a text for me, written in Old English, as I had asked if most works were in Latin. This book was a gift to the U.S. from Great Britain published

in 1688, and still in pristine condition. He stated that the pages were made of wool cloth and not wood pulp.

According to Father Peter, many of their books depict the ceremonial process of crowning a king or queen, or knighting a knight. It is called "Pontifical Romanum," and in the words of Father Peter, the monks of Saint Martin's University will know the ceremony, "if the Pacific Northwest ever secedes from the U.S. and they choose to make Bill and Melinda Gates their King and Queen."

So if any of this interests you, go say hello to Father Peter. He is always willing to connect with the students on campus.



Father Peter Tynan has been a monk at Saint Martin's for 14 years.

## Thoughts from a veteran on the new Veteran's Center: Andres Perez

Photo courtesy of Andres Perez



Andres Perez and his service dog Smoke with a horse

Veterans are a very select group of individuals. In fact, to call us individuals actually goes against what we are taught in the military, no matter the branch of service. We are taught, conditioned, even brainwashed to believe

there is only the mission, and you as an individual are a part of something greater than yourself. You are a part of a team, a unit, a family. In fact for many of us we do not see the individual as being Black, White, Hispanic, or anything else but Green. Once you go through basic training and become a member of the armed forces, you will forever bleed green. The very things that make you an individual all fade away and you become a cohesive, well-oiled machine. You learn to operate in the harshest of environments, under the worst conditions possible by relying on that person to the left and right of you. To some degree we cease to even make a distinction between male and female, always placing the mission first, because to fail at the mission is to fail your brothers and sisters in arms. For many of us, that love of family never leaves us, even after our departure from the military.

We have fought for the freedoms that most Americans take for granted, and we did it voluntarily. We never ask for handouts, and are the first ones to rise to the occasion of hard work. Maybe that is why many veterans enter college with a drive, not only to succeed, but to overcome all obstacles in our path to success. But being a veteran also means that we have a unique culture all to our own. It cannot be

taught, but rather is lived. It is, and will always be, our way of life. "Duty," "Country," "Honor" and "Respect" are just some of the words we live by. Opening this Veteran's Center allows the veteran's community at Saint Martins to thrive in their own natural setting, which allows us the opportunities to connect with our fellow brothers and sisters. This bond helps us rely on each other during our darkest times. The SMU Veterans Club wanted to bridge the gap between veteran students and non-veteran students. We wanted to show the SMU community that although veterans are reserved and tend to sit in the back of the class, we are still very approachable. Many veterans, arguably, come off initially as being very intimidating, but if you take the time to make conversation, you will be surprised as to how insightful we really are. As the President of the Veterans Club, I challenge non-veteran students to engage with a veteran in one of their classes. Please be for warned, we can be very opinionated and passionate on certain topics, but we will always give as much respect as is given to us.

Sincerely,  
Andres Perez  
SMU Vet Club President

## Belltower staff's top study spots on campus

When we are not working hard on the newest edition of the paper, just like all students, we can be found studying in some of our favorite places on campus.



Students can use the glass walls as graph paper in Cebula Hall.



The Burton addition has a fireplace, couches and piano to meet all your studying needs.



The library reading room is a peaceful place to finish your class reading assignments.



Students who need assistance with STEM or writing homework can visit "The Center" in the lower level of the library.



Spangler Hall provides many study spaces, and a recreation space when you need a brain break.



Harned Hall classrooms provide a quiet space to study with large groups or alone.



If you're looking for a table to spread out your homework, Parsons kitchenettes are great project spaces.

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## Students spend break both locally and abroad

**Cleo Pineda and Taylor Gersch**  
*Staff Writers*

A little over two months into the spring semester, Saint Martin's welcomed spring break. With a whole week off school, students took advantage of their free time and some even traveled to a variety of places including Mexico, Arizona, Germany, Las Vegas, Idaho and Montana.

"I spent most of my spring break catching up on sleep," freshman Arie Owfour confessed. When classes are in session, many college students are forced to put relaxation on the back burner. From sitting through lectures to completing homework and studying for exams, no one has the chance to unwind.

Besides relaxing, Owfour used his break to search for employment opportunities.

"The highlight of my week was getting a job at a retirement home for veterans. Having no previous job experience, I would say getting one is new for me," he said.

Though privileged with a week-long break from classes, Owfour admitted that the pressure experienced throughout the semester does not just magically disappear. Unlike schools on a quarter system, spring break for SMU falls in the middle of the semester. Therefore, any work or midterm left undone prior to break has to be finished by the following week, leaving some students like Owfour with a gray cloud of deadlines hovering over their head.

"I had homework to do for my stressful classes...it's not really break if there's work in it," Owfour stated.

Senior computer science major Camryn Althaus traveled to Arizona for spring break to visit her future graduate school, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

"I could not make it through the school year without spring break. By the time I reach the middle of the semester, I am mentally and physically exhausted. By having this vacation time it wipes the slate clean and prepares students like myself for the second half of the year" Althaus explained.

Spring break was different for freshman J.T. Tumlin, who found it a chance to reenergize.

"The break was needed. It gave me time to recuperate after midterms and clear myself mentally so that I can focus until the end of the semester," Tumlin said.

After working during the day, he enjoyed

going out to dinner with his friends and lounging around at the dorms.

"I learned how to play Phase 10. I also tried linguini for the first time...it was bomb! To be honest, I was mad that I haven't eaten it before," he admitted. Tumlin's favorite part of spring break was finally receiving his tax refund.

"My favorite part of being on vacation was getting to play hockey four times a week," Joseph Clark, junior, said. If he wasn't watching March Madness or rearranging his apartment, Clark was busy working on school obligations.

"I've felt refreshed since the end of midterms," Clark said. He took initiative and made use of his



As students returned to campus, the cherry blossoms welcomed them back.

break by studying for his classes.

Freshman Ililani Kamaka traveled to Missoula, Mont. to stay with her boyfriend's family and believes she desperately needed the week off from school.

"Spring break gives college students a chance to see family that they may or may not see often, or even see new places that they might not get the chance to do otherwise. I think a week off is a perfect amount of time to take a break from classes and athletics practices and workouts. It also marks the homestretch until summer and is pretty motivating to get you through the last few weeks," explained Kamaka.

For SMU international student Eiru Oikawa, spring break was the perfect time for her to reunite with loved ones. As soon as classes got out, Oikawa was already preparing for her mother's visit. Since her mother was flying in all the way from Japan, Oikawa wanted to make sure that her stay in Washington was special.

"I showed her SMU, Lacey, Olympia, and

Seattle. She stayed in the U.S. for six days. I introduced her to my American friends and we ate dinner together at the Lacey Red Lobster. The next day, we went to Olympia and then to Seattle. I showed her Pike Place Market, the first Starbucks the Space Needle, and the Chihuly Garden Museum," Oikawa shared.

Even after living in the Pacific Northwest for eight months now, Oikawa was able to experience new places and activities.

"I had never introduced a city. Nor had I ever introduced my foreign friends to my mother, so everything I did was new to me. There were many places and activities which were new to me. For example, I rode a ferry where I could see a beautiful view of Seattle. The view was like a postcard and it was so nice," Oikawa explained.

"Luckily the weather was so nice while my mother was in Washington. I really like sunny days in Washington because every city view is beautiful in the light. Especially Pike Place Market with its yellow flowers on its roof! That made me feel like Spring is here," she continued.

Most of the duo's bonding was accompanied by sunshine, which made up for some of the rain that poured all semester. After her mother's stay, Oikawa focused on her upcoming class presentation.

"I could feel refreshed because I was able to do many things that I wouldn't have done if my mother did not come to visit. I also have a presentation for a non-ESL class on April. This event is a big experience for me because it will be my first time presenting in front of American people. Therefore, this break is a refreshing break before the event and I can feel that I will do my best for it," Oikawa said.

Senior business major Steffany Woods stayed on campus for half of break and went home for the other half.

When asked if she would rather skip spring break and get out of school earlier, Woods said "I would give up the chance to skip this spring break because I'm ready to be done and graduate. I love this school but I cannot wait to walk across the stage."

It looks like skipping spring break was out of the question for some Saint Martin's students as we are nearing the home stretch to summer and graduation!

## A tribute to Chuck Berry

**Sabrina White**  
*Managing Editor*

Musician, guitarist and songwriter Charles Edward Anderson "Chuck" Berry passed away on March 18. Berry had a major influence on rock music in the beginning of the genre and continued to change the face of American popular music.

Born into a middle-class American family, Berry began his career performing at local high schools in St. Louis. Following a conviction for armed robbery in 1944, Berry spent three years in a reformatory school. After his release, he took inspiration from blues musician T-Bone Walker and began performing with the Johnnie Johnson Trio. After partnering with Chess Records, Berry recorded "Maybelline" and shot to fame on the music scene, selling one million copies and topping the Billboard rhythm and blues section. He also recorded "Roll Over Beethoven" which became an instant hit.

Berry began to appear in many films, went on extravagant tours with stars like Buddy Holly and

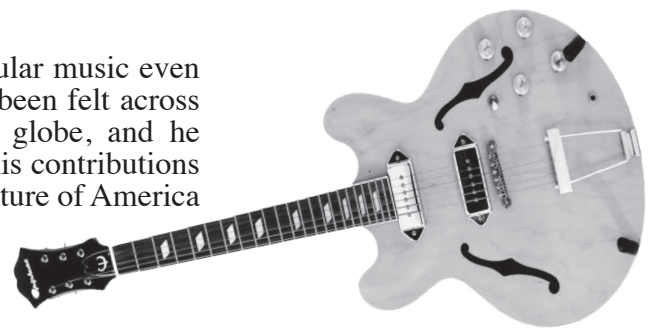
had several hit records in the mid to late 50s. Berry opened his own nightclub, Berry's Club Bandstand, in his hometown of St. Louis in 1958. He continued to enjoy fame until his arrest in 1962 under the Mann Act for transporting a 14-year old girl across state lines.

He was released in 1963 and, despite his arrests, continued recording popular songs such as "No Particular Place to Go," "You Can Never Tell," and "Nadine." One of Berry's most popular songs was "Johnny B. Goode," which is the only rock n' roll song to be featured on the Voyager Golden Record, a phonograph record containing songs portraying human culture and interests that was launched into space in 1977. This record is meant for any extra-terrestrial life forms or future humans to discover.

Berry was inducted into the Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame during its opening in 1986, being credited with laying the foundations for the rock n' roll sound and stance.

Berry was the quintessential voice of American rock and roll in its beginnings and heavily influenced

many forms of popular music even today. His loss has been felt across the nation and the globe, and he will be missed for his contributions to the music and culture of America and beyond.



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## Students share their go-to study tips

**Cleo Pineda**  
Staff Writer

Post mid-terms week, SMU students shared some of their favorite ways to tackle their exams. Tracey Porter, a first-year, prefers a 'Type A' method of utilizing her resources to their maximum potential.

"If my professor gives us a study guide, I usually go over it the weekend before the test and take note of which ones I don't get," she said. After going through the study guide, she visits her professor during office hours with a list of specific questions to ask.

"I like to start studying by myself at first and then with classmates," Porter shared. With more brains involved in a study group, students can encourage and bounce ideas off each other. "Joining a group gives me more well-rounded answers," she continued. The transition from high school to college in terms of workload and difficulty level pushes first-year students to modify and develop their study habits.

"The main skill I'm learning to improve is my time management. You tend to get a lot more homework in college compared to high school so you really have to plan ahead. My number one tip is to start your homework right when you get it or at least set aside time in the week to complete it and avoid falling behind," Porter said.

When asked about how he prepared for his midterms, junior Michael Dominguez joked about the consequences of waiting until the last minute to study. When it comes to understanding new material, cram sessions the night before a test are less effective than studying throughout the semester or following a study schedule days in advance. However, he also benefits from



There are three study rooms available for students to rent in the library for up to two hours

studying with his peers.

"I like study groups because it gives you more reassurance when you realize other people are just as lost as you are. But at the same time, you can take the fragments that people know and then put it into one body of knowledge," Dominguez said.

Study groups are a common way to prepare for one of the busiest weeks in the semester, and some students even have developed certain rules when picking a group to study with. For A.J. Berbisco, a civil engineering major, collaborating with his classmates can go either way.

"I like studying with one or two other people. With any more, I would end up just slacking off. I can't study with my friends because I know we won't get anything done," the sophomore admits. When he does choose to study with a group, Berbisco comes with the topics that he does not understand in order to make sure that they have enough time to hit all of them.

"I like studying by myself too but if I have a question and I am by myself, I can't really ask

other people their process of solving the problem," Berbisco said.

Psychology and criminal justice double major Crystal Jones recommends a more tech-savvy approach.

"I use my Quizlet app to study for most of my tests," Jones said. Quizlet is an online resource which contains interactive games and flashcards that can be tailored to students' needs.

"My most challenging class right now is French 102. I have a lot of trouble especially with conjugating verbs. There is a game on Quizlet that has you match words with their definitions and I find it to be very helpful since I have a lot of vocabulary to memorize," she said. When it comes to her go-to study tips for other subjects, she suggests the Whitenoise app she uses on her phone. Whitenoise offers a collection of relaxing background sounds to choose from.

"I really like the sound of rain. It relaxes me and reduces my stress whenever I'm studying. But my all-time favorite is the cat purring!" Jones exclaimed.



photos courtesy of John Chaudes

Students often find it easier to study in an academic setting rather than their rooms.

## Anxiety in the student body

**Breanna Brink**  
Staff Writer

A little bit of stress can have a variety of results. Stress can be used to motivate students to complete homework, strive to do their best in sports or keep them from being late to class. However, when things turn from stress to distress, one's body may react in an unfavorable manner. When the flight-or-fight mechanism is over stimulated and constantly revving up your mind, there is no way to relax. Sleep becomes seemingly impossible and the body begins to react in the only way it knows how. Anxiety is a troubling topic, and since it has an unfortunate stigma attached to it, students are more likely to suppress their symptoms or try to self-medicate.

Caffeine is a common additive to the life of an anxious student. Unfortunately, while the caffeine may wake you up, it will also cause your anxiety to skyrocket. Other forms of self-medication have been documented such as drinking or smoking. Coupled with a blooming anxiety disorder, these set the body up for a substance abuse disorder as well. The American Addiction Centers (AAC) has detailed lists of what substances will increase anxiety and which will decrease it, as well as their rates for addiction.

But what causes anxiety in the first place? Generally, ongoing events that are causing distress will eventually culminate in some form of an anxiety disorder. There are other contributing factors, of course, like having a family history of mental health conditions. Certain personality types are more prone to feeling anxious and distressed and natural, constant fatigue of the body will eventually cause anxiety-like symptoms. It should be no surprise that being a student comes with its own heavy load of stress. Keeping oneself healthy during the school year is an important way to alleviate anxiety and distress. Take breaks, get good sleep, and implement a healthy diet.

There also are other resources that can be utilized for a student suffering with an anxiety disorder. Fortunately for our campus, SMU has

support and aid for those who are suffering from anxiety disorders as well as a variety of other things such as Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, etc. According to Geoff Brown, the coordinator for the disability support services, over 100 Saint Martin's students use disability support services, and 20 + students get support for anxiety disorders.

Our on-campus Disabilities Support Service also stated that, "In terms of resources, we offer note taking services, as well as test proctoring for individuals with documented disabilities. Disability Support Services is dedicated to advocating for students so that each individual may fully participate in our university community."

With anxiety on an unfortunate rise among students, it is important to know all the resources your campus offers, as well as what you can do to help yourself and others from feeling too distressed. However, just because you might feel anxious does not mean you have an anxiety disorder. If you believe you have an anxiety disorder, it is best to consult with your doctor or counselor. Once you have an answer, you can proceed from there in a manner that is best for you.

## Corrections

Our article, "Union for adjunct faculty incites student involvement" incorrectly listed the place for the Women's Panel as the Trautman Student Union Building. The panel actually took place in Harned Hall. In the same article, it was stated that the march for women's rights went "throughout campus." The march actually went outside of the school and around the Lacey area.

In our article "Exploring the LGBTQ+ Club" the paper printed that the "T" stands for "transgendered." It actually stands for "transgender." The paper also printed that the "A" stands for "ally." The "A" actually stands for "asexual and/or (straight) ally."

## Steve Sordahl soaring for the Saints

**Nathan Pearsall**  
Staff Writer

While he may be new to the Saint Martin's campus, Steve Sordahl, a 21-year old junior-transfer, has made his name known throughout the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) dug-outs.

Spending his first two years at Walla Walla Community College allowed Sordahl to find success both at the plate and in the field, winning back to back Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) East Region Gold Gloves and one All-NWAC Gold Glove. Alongside these accolades, he collected back to back Second-Team East Region honors.

Coming to Lacey seemed like quite the trek from the east side of the Cascades, however the Kennewick-native felt right at home. Through 19 games this season, Sordahl is leading the Saints in batting average, hitting .338 with 10 RBIs and nine runs scored.

Sordahl hasn't always been such an offensive scare to opposing pitchers, however. He said that, "when I was 14 years old playing for a select team, I really started to hit the ball well and I realized baseball was the way to go." From then on, he has found a lot of comfort in the box and thanks his coaches and teammates for pushing him through the years.

On Feb. 27, Sordahl was named the GNAC Player of the Week following an impressive five game series versus Nation Association of Inter-collegiate Athletics opponent College of Idaho.

In five games, he had an offensive outburst, collecting nine hits over 19 at-bats [.474 avg] and drove in two runs. Alongside this, Sordahl scored five times, once in each game.

While his first selection as conference Player of the Week, Sordahl has also collected top weekend performances and has set himself up for quite the year.



Steve Sordahl, named Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Week on Feb. 27, is having quite the start to his first season with the Saints.

The baseball team is coming off of a tough four game series versus Northwest Nazarene and a double header against Western Oregon University.

Unfortunately, the Saints only claimed two victories out of the six games played, winning

the first out of the four in Nampa, Idaho, and the second game of the double header.

Over the six games, Aaron Shoup had one of his best starts of the season, winning his first game after going 6.1 IP with four earned-runs and three strikeouts over Northwest Nazarene. Luke Hare came in for a 2.1 IP save that was amplified by recording five strikeouts while giving up one hit and walking one batter.

While not the start to the season the Saints were looking for, they still remain in striking distance of the fourth and final playoff spot with a 5-9 league record and 8-14 overall record, just behind Montana State Billings who holds an 8-8 league record and 10-16 overall record.

The Saints have received help from everyone on the field, especially with strong play from the freshman on the team. Shaan Kothari has been one of the most feared names in the lineup, hitting .300 with one home run, three doubles and has driven in four. As for on the mound, Ben Wadowski is 1-0 with six appearances and a 1.59 ERA.

The weekend of April 8 and 9 holds a pivotal matchup between the Saints and the Western Oregon Wolves. Western Oregon University finds themselves atop the GNAC rankings with a 10-3 conference record.

While not quite the mid-part of the season, the Saints will look to get hot come the second half with key matchups at home against Central Washington (April 14-15), Northwest Nazarene (April 28-29) and Concordia (May 5-6).

## Elin Johansson compares basketball in Sweden to America

**Lauren Allison**  
Staff Writer

Saint Martin's has a diverse student population with international students and professors from all across the world. Our athletic programs are lucky to have some of these students join the program. One of these players is Elin Johansson, a basketball player from Sweden. Johansson, a junior this year, plays for our SMU women's basketball team.

Before Johansson moved to America to play for SMU, she played for the Swedish National team and played in the European championship in 2014. During her first season as a Saint, Johansson had 181 points, averaging 6.7 points per game with 99 rebounds. She had a season high of 15 points and a career high of nine blocks. Last year she had 172 points, averaging 7.8 points per game with 84 rebounds. She had 40 assists, 18 blocks and 10 steals. She also had a career high of 18 points, shooting 43.5 percent from the floor and 65.1 percent from the field.

This year, Johansson had 369 points, averaging 13.2 a game. She had 23 blocks and 171 rebounds. According to head coach Tim Healy, "Elin has been a blast to coach, I love her personality, her passion and fire. She and I have had a great relationship over the past three years as she wants to be pushed to make herself better. She truly wants to win and comes into practice and games every day with a great attitude. She will go down as one of the most memorable players I have had the pleasure to coach!"

Not only did Johansson move away from home to go to college, but she moved to another

continent in order to play basketball at a high level and attend university. She says that, "Playing college ball is very special, and I am very grateful to have gotten the opportunity to do so. Basketball in Sweden is not a very popular sport, at least not in the way it always is present in this society so that was the most remarkable difference. I like how it can be a bigger part of my life than if I would've been in Sweden where it mostly would evolve around the court."

She mentioned some differences on the court that she had to get used to, like a 30 second shot clock instead of 24 second's, and the hardest thing to adapt to was "the physical part of it and the importance of athleticism. I am naturally pretty athletic, but when I first got here I got tossed around a lot, not being used to actually have to play girls that were my size or even bigger than me."

Johansson's sister knew the assistant coach at the time when she was figuring out what her plans for the spring were. Once she got in contact with Coach Healy, it all happened quickly and Johansson signed three weeks after she started talking to him. She says, "I probably didn't realize what I had done until I sat on the plane to SeaTac, but I am glad I took a leap of faith." Everyone was helpful during her transition, making moving from home a lot smoother. Although she has enjoyed her time at SMU, she has still faced a few challenges.

"There are plenty of challenges to face when you move from everything you've ever know to something completely new. For me, I believe that the most difficult part of moving to another country is that I am so far from my family and

friends," Johansson said.

Moving to another continent to attend school is a big decision for anyone to make. Not only did Johansson have to adjust to basketball in another continent, she had to adjust to the schooling aspect. She says the main reason she decided to move to the U.S. was because "you can't really combine school and basketball on a high level the same way in Sweden as you can here." Playing at SMU "allows me to be as focused on basketball as possible and at the same time get a good education. In Sweden, school and basketball are two separate things that don't really integrate with each other in the same way."

Johansson has one more season at SMU and hopes to make the best out of it. Saint Martin's is proud to have international students-athletes from all over and Johansson is a prime example of that.



Elin Johansson (right) is a pivotal player for the Saints.



# We're Moving!

**We are being moved to Harned Hall 113.  
Come visit us in our new office after the move!**

## Coach Healy's farewell

**Lauren Allison**  
Staff Writer

After 37 years of coaching, 22 of those years at Saint Martin's University, the women's basketball head coach Tim Healy announced his retirement from coaching after the 2016-2017 season. Healy's first coaching job was at Olympia High School in 1980. He is now a part-time coach and part-time professor at SMU. Although he will say goodbye to basketball, he plans to continue teaching Kinesiology, Exercise Physiology, Psychology and Philosophy of Coaching here as well as being the head of the Physical Education Department.

Healy says of his reasoning for retirement, "In the past five years of basketball, recruiting has changed, kids have changed, recruiting has become so time consuming that as a half time coach I don't have time to do recruiting like I have in the past. In the past I had a formula that worked and I was able to recruit the kind of kids I wanted and have success with them. But now to get the kinds of kids I want, I can't do it being half time. I think it was just the right time for me to make a change and I think it forces the university to hire a full time coach and I think it will be better for the program in the long run."

Coach Healy has seen many students come and go through the basketball program over his 22 years. These years have been filled with many memories that he will never forget. Two moments that he will remember most on the court is

when the team, "beat Seattle Pacific University here when they were undefeated and number one in the nation. They had won 152 consecutive games in a row and we beat them. Also, when we beat Alaska Anchorage one year when they were number one in the nation."

Of his memories off the court, he

the Saints.

"I think for me personally that most successful thing that we've done here is that we have had great kids. Our graduation rate has been 100 percent. We had some success on the court but not nearly as important as the success we had just producing good people," Healy

kids we had," said Healy.

Recruiting good students has always been at the top of his list year after year. He is very proud of the players that have been part of the program over his years as head coach.

"Coach Healy was so much more than a basketball coach. It was easy to tell he genuinely cared for his players and would do anything for them, which is what made playing for him so enjoyable. His vast knowledge of the game paired with his love for the team made playing for him one of the best experiences," said junior Hannah Reynolds.

You have to have a love for the game in order to coach for over 30 years. Basketball is always going to be a part of coach Healy's life whether he is coaching or just a fan in the stands. His favorite part about coaching is the teaching part. He says, "I love to take a player or a team from point A to point B. I like to see them build their confidence and grow. To me that's the ultimate award. I'm not all hung up on wins and losses, I couldn't tell you how many games I've won, it doesn't matter to me, it's all about the progress you make with the kids."

Healy has been an important part of the basketball community here for 22 years and will always be seen as a great coach and someone who cares deeply for his players. He has made an impact on many athletes' lives over the years and will be truly missed by SMU.



Coach Healy has been with the women's basketball program for 22 years.

says, "the rest are just memories interacting with kids, stories and traveling and all the fun stuff that goes along with college athletics."

Healy has made an impact in many of his player's lives including senior Shelbie Drey who says that "he really cared about us. He has impacted me not only as a basketball player but also as a person. He was always there for us and we could go to him for anything, it was important to him that we were ok on and off the court."

Healy has had success on and off the court over his years here with

says. The players are what he is going to miss most about coaching. They are the center of his coaching and are the most important part to him. One of the coolest parts of his job is seeing the bonds and friendships built on and off the court.

"One of the things I can say about that is that I went to a wedding of my former player about three years ago and there were at least 10 of her former teammates there all in the wedding and part of the wedding. For me the fact that they still have that friendship and bond years later speaks volumes about the type of

## USA wins it all

**Nathan Pearsall**  
Staff Writer

Since its inaugural year in 2006, the World Baseball Classic (WBC) has never been something the U.S. competes in and finishes well.

2006, 2009 and 2013 found the U.S. never finishing passed fourth place, and found the fans who tuned up for the event wondering if the U.S. would ever field a team with the best of the best. In the first three WBC events, the big-name players pulled their names from the hat to avoid any potential injury.

2017 painted a different picture for Team USA. Bigger name players from the MLB, such as Andrew McCutchen, Adam Jones and Nolan Arenado, led the way for a stacked U.S. lineup. The only flaw found in the roster? The lack of big named pitchers such as Madison Bumgarner and Clayton Kershaw.

While this seemed like a problematic situation for Jim Leyland's ball-club, he fielded a rotation and bullpen that became unhittable down the stretch. To start out, the USA needed one win in the first round of pool play to advance. They faced a strong Team Canada and veteran starting pitcher in Ryan

Dempster, but got off to a hot start, winning 8-0 and advancing to the second round of pool play.

There they faced the world's toughest talent in Puerto Rico, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic (D.R.) who went a perfect 8-0 in 2013 to claim the World Baseball Classic title. In the second round of

team who the U.S. struggled against in the past. The D.R. came out firing, scoring two in the first inning putting the pressure on the U.S., but thanks to Giancarlo Stanton the U.S. took the lead on one swing of the bat with a rocket that landed in the second floor of the Western Metal Supply Building in the left

teammate Manny Machado of a home run in style.

After defeating Japan 2-1 in the semifinals, the Americans found themselves matched up against Puerto Rico in a rematch of Puerto Rico's 6-5 win over the U.S. in the second round.

Pitching for the U.S. was Marcus Stroman. Stroman had the choice of which country he would represent and chose the U.S. over Puerto Rico, causing some controversy for his family.

That fueled his fire. Stroman took a no-hitter into the seventh inning before giving up his first hit. The U.S. went on to win the Championship in convincing fashion with an 8-0 victory for their first World Baseball Classic title and may have brought back interest of baseball in the U.S. to the highest it's been in recent years.

While baseball season is right around the corner and we as fans are back to rooting for our chosen teams, we all get to say that the U.S. is the best baseball country in the world for four more years after winning the true "World Series," and that is a special thing to any baseball fan.



Marcus Stroman lifts the MVP Trophy following the U.S.'s 8-0 victory over Puerto Rico, claiming their first World Baseball Classic Title.

pool play before the semifinals, the U.S. went 2-1 finishing in the second qualifying spot behind Puerto Rico.

The win that sent the U.S. to the semifinals came against the D.R., a

field of Petco Park.

After that they didn't look back, winning 6-3. One of the best plays any sports fan will ever see occurred when the game was still a 4-2 lead for the U.S. and Adam Jones robbed

Photo retrieved from CBS Sports

Hello,  
This is a letter to the editor regarding the article “Union for adjunct faculty incites student involvement” in Volume IX, issue seven. Upon picking up the last Belltower, I was extremely excited to see that an article about the March 1 walkout for the union, “Union for adjunct faculty incites student involvement,” was on the front page. This excitement turned into disappointment and frustration as I read it. While there were many inaccuracies and noticeable biases in the article, one of the things that was most frustrating about this piece was the fact that it was supposedly about student involvement, but had almost no mention of the panel of working women at Saint Martin’s, which had a large student turnout. The panel was an incredibly important part of the proceedings of the day as it gave a platform to the often unheard female faculty and allowed them to speak about their experiences being a woman on this campus. The faculty that spoke were led by Katie Bugyis (Religious Studies), and the panel was comprised of Keri Graham (Women’s Studies), Jodee Flynt-Davies (English), Teresa Winstead (Society and Social Justice), Diana Falco (Criminal Justice), Sonalini Sapra (Political Science), and Olivia Archibald (English). These women spoke about the numerous occasions of sexism they have encountered on this campus, from being told to smile more or be less pushy to having their credibility as professors called into question, as well as frequently being paid less than their male counterparts for doing almost exactly the same work. They also spoke of how having a union on campus would help alleviate some of these issues, especially for the adjunct faculty. Hearing these stories was incredibly educational and touching, giving students who attended an eye-opening perspective about what some of our faculty experience on a day-to-day basis. This event had some of our highest student turnout for the day, but even more importantly, it seemed to spark an interest in more students to get involved by educating them, the very thing the Belltower claims our students should be doing. Thank you,  
Caitlyn Larson

To Bethany Montgomery,  
I have a myriad of issues with your recently printed article entitled “Union For Adjunct Faculty Incites Student Involvement.” On your mission statement, you claim that the Belltower will “give our best efforts to keep the community informed” and yet you released an extremely biased and upsetting article in favor of the administration with no direct sources of anyone within the union. As the only student written newspaper on campus, you have a duty to present the facts-- and only the facts-- to the student body in a nonpartisan and fact oriented manner. Instead, The Belltower has used its position to disregard any first-hand accounts of students or faculty involved directly in the walkout, and instead opted for an anonymous observer and a quote from Edward Barton-- someone who is *clearly* in an extremely biased position. If this article is going to rely on the statements of people in seats of conflicting interest, it is worth also getting a statement from a union member to even out the opinions presented. Moreover, the story blatantly lies by claiming that the administration is not using student tuition money to afford lawyers-- when that is actually a proven fact that the administration has actually *confessed* to. It is briefly mentioned that the tuition money has been used in the past-- but it is so offhand you are clearly dismissing it. Students are angry that their tuition money has *ever* been used to fund lawyers, and yet this article purposefully downplays that. Also, the “anonymous student” who attended the union walkout clearly was ill informed because several times the article gets key pieces of the walkout wrong, such as when it was claimed that the “faculty held a panel over lunch in the Trautman Student Union Building.” Had anyone actually attended the walkout, they would have known the panel was actually held in Harned Hall. It goes on to claim that the march for women’s rights was “throughout campus” when it actually went outside of the school and around Lacey. The article further goes on to claim “Until the NLRB considers the [administration’s] appeal, the school cannot recognize the union” which is a complete lie. The administration can absolutely recognize the union in the meantime, in fact, that is why the union wants to meet with the administration in the first place. When the administration and the union faculty can meet, there can be negotiations that will help define the needs of both sides. My issue does not lie in the article’s anti-union position. It is the fact that a newspaper that claims legitimacy would ever write an article so clearly in favor of the administration without ever even attempting regard a counter argument that upsets me. I especially have an issue in that the article was so anti-union and was not published as an opinion piece. We are living in the age of alternative facts, which gives the media an especially important position to discern the truth-- or to at least present both sides in order to give the power of decision making to the readers. Instead, The Belltower has chosen to completely disregard proven facts and to present students only the position that it believes they should hold. This article does not anger me because it is anti-union, it angers me because it is faulty journalism below The Belltower’s standards.  
- Madeline Krogmann

Dear Editor,  
This last edition of the Belltower had an article on the front page of the paper regarding the Walkout organized by the faculty union. When I first saw the article, I was glad that the Belltower was covering this topic, though after reading the article my feelings transformed from glad to frustrated. As a student who has been working with the faculty union, I found this article a bit misleading and biased. While this article was titled: “Union for adjunct faculty incites student involvement” it only touches on student involvement quite briefly. The student they talked to was also a nameless observer, rather than a student who was actually there participating in the Walkout throughout the day. Though, what was most frustrating about this article for me was the very last sentence: “Learning every side of an issue this big should be a priority for the students of Saint Martin’s before they pledge their support or disprove.” This for me was problematic. While this, of course, was not personal, I felt as if my integrity as activist was being called into question. For me, the faculty union is not about money, even though that is what commonly comes into mind. I could care less if they are using my tuition money, that should not be what is making students want to support the union. We should support the union because it is just and promotes dignity of work and respects for persons, it adheres to our Benedictine values. So yes, I am aware of the sides to this issue. I do hope that as more actions around unionization take place on campus, more people will take the time to learn all sides of this issue, though I also hope the work of both students and faculty revolving the union will be represented in a way that does not incite bias or belittle the work that has been done. Warmly,  
Megan Quinones

Letters to the Editor policies

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

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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.

## Belltower response to the Letters to the Editor

The letters we received were correct that there were a few inaccuracies concerning the location of the events. Unfortunately, no members of the Belltower staff were able to attend the entirety of the five-hour event. Apart from the time that the staff attended, we summarized the event through second-hand sources and the schedule provided by the flyers posted by the Union around Saint Martin's University (SMU). We take responsibility for these mistakes and include them with our corrections.

However, all other quotes and statements made in the article were correct. Ed Barton, as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), provided factual statements regarding the use of our tuition dollars. As CFO, he tracks where tuition money is spent. He has confirmed that as of the summer of 2016, tuition funds are no longer being used to sustain the appeal. All financial statements from the school are open to all students and they are free to verify this information or meet with Barton directly.

It is true that the students have been upset that our tuition was ever used to fund the appeal; this is an upsetting fact that students have the right to be angry over. However, this is no longer the case. It is in fact a battle the students have already won. It was not our intention to downplay a wrong action of the administration, it was statement made to inform students of the current state of our situation. It is possible that many students could get involved based on this claim alone and should know that it is untrue at the present moment.

When it comes to the administration recognizing the union, our paper was reporting what our source Barton told us. As a paper, we have a duty to print what our sources say whether or not we agree with them. In terms of the factual nature of this statement, The Belltower contacted Ron Hook, Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in Seattle. He informed us that after SEIU was certified as the representative for the bargaining unit last June, SEIU filed an unfair labor practice (ULP) complaint against the administration for refusing to meet with the union. However, because the administration has filed an appeal, the ULP complaint is held back until the appeal is ruled on. He also informed us that at this point, the administration can choose to bargain with the union, but no contract can be approved while the appeal is still being processed. Clearly, the administration has chosen not to meet with the union during this time. We have had two outside lawyers familiar with labor laws verify for us that if the administration chose to meet with the union, that would undercut their appeal process. It is unlikely that the administration would choose to meet with the union before their appeal is ruled on by the NLRB. Because of this, the union's statement that the administration is practicing union busting and Barton's statement that the administration's refusal to meet with the union is due process are both true.

We have also been accused of excluding opposing viewpoints. In the article, we included an e-mail from SEIU giving their viewpoint of the walkout. The Belltower has made every effort to present students with a non-biased perspective. An examination of our previous issues reveals that we have pro-union perspectives from students, as well as views from the other side of the argument.

Some of the Letters to the Editor we received challenged us on using an anonymous student source. Students have a right to remain anonymous if they feel that their statements may result in harassment. This student has just as much of a right to have their voice represented in the paper as students expressing other viewpoints without fear of backlash.

Students have the right to be involved in the union to support adjunct staff, but neither those who support the union or those who stand against it have the right to falsely present issues to students. Only after the student body is informed of the truth should they choose to stay uninvolved or make a pledge of support.

- Bethany Montgomery and The Belltower Staff

## Belltower Editorial: Students should be informed before pledging union support

The Belltower editorial team would like to make it clear that we are not against better treatment for adjunct and contingent faculty. The teachers at this university are what make a quality education possible, and our staff wants them to be treated fairly and with respect. However, we have questions regarding the methods the union has used in this fight.

With our recent article entitled "Union for adjunct faculty incites student involvement," we have received several responses from different students and faculty who have been accusing us of bias and of factual inaccuracies. Unionization for contingent faculty is a sensitive topic and we as a paper have tried our best to cover this issue from all sides.

In our October 29, 2016 issue we published an article entitled "A guide to unionization efforts at Saint Martin's University." This article presented an overview of everything that had occurred at St. Martin's in terms of unionization efforts up until that point, and came as a response from an contingent instructor who requested that we cover the unionization efforts. In that article, we reported on the union's victory, with 63 votes in favor, 34 votes against and 27 eligible voters not casting votes. We also spoke to Kyle Smith, a contingent instructor, who gave his view of why the union is necessary. Additionally, we spoke to President Heynderickx and Provost Molly Smith in order to gain a well-balanced perspective of both sides.

We have also been challenged on our statement that the administration is no longer using tuition dollars to fund their appeal. This information was received from Saint Martin's Chief Financial Officer (CFO). When our paper has a question, such as what money is currently funding the administration's appeal, we ask the most appropriate source we can find. As the CFO, Barton clearly fits that bill. We stand by his facts. The article is not arguing that tuition dollars were never used.

For further statements responding to the challenges raised by the Letters to the Editor, please see our "Belltower response to Letters to the Editor" above this article.

As students at a university, we are constantly told by our professors to think critically about things. We are told to ask questions, and to consider all perspectives. We are told to think deeply. This is what the staff of The Belltower is doing. We are asking why the union would continue to use old information to support their case. Our role as a paper is to report the facts and ask questions. Right now, we are asking questions about some of the union strategies.

One example is the fact that the union, in some cases, does not clarify that the union is not for all faculty, but only for contingent faculty. Contingent faculty is an umbrella term used for faculty who are not tenured or tenure-track. Some contingent faculty are full time and on a yearly instructor contract while some are part-time, or semester-to-semester teachers. An example of a time when the union did not make this distinction comes from the union Facebook page. The title of the page is, "Saint Martin's University Faculty Union." This makes it sound like the union is for tenure and tenure-track faculty which it is not. Furthermore, the WA Faculty Forward website makes statements such as, "The Saint Martin's community came together for quality education for students and a stronger voice for faculty," which again does not make the distinction. These examples, from The Belltower's perspective, need to be carefully considered and thought about critically. In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in National Labor Relations Board v. Yeshiva University that full time tenure track faculty members are management-level individuals and are unable to unionize because of this. A flyer sent out by SEIU to support the March 1 walk-out states that tenure and tenure-track faculty are also trying to form a union, but does not mention the ruling that currently prevents them from doing so.

The Belltower's position on this is that students should be presented with all the facts so that they can make an informed choice to support the union or not.

Furthermore, a number of Belltower staff have been present in classrooms when teachers urged support for the union and sign-up sheets were passed around for the March 1 Walk-out. The Belltower questions this practice. Because of the power dynamic between teachers and students, this could be seen as exploitation. According to the American Association of University Professors, in their Statement on Professional Ethics, teachers must "... avoid any exploitation, harassment, or discriminatory treatment of students." We feel that this is unfair to students and places them in an uncomfortable classroom situation. Students who wish to support the union have the right to do so, but other students should not be made to feel bad for not pledging support.

Colleges and universities are meant to be places of learning and critical thinking. There are many arguments in favor of a union at Saint Martin's University, and it is true that the contingent faculty have voted in favor of a union that the administration has yet to recognize. The Belltower is not arguing against any of these facts. We are simply trying to present the truth. And with the truth made known, students are free to make any choice that they want.

-The Belltower Editorial Board

Belltower Word Search

A	V	E	Y	L	P	M	J	N	F	V	G	D	C	C
H	N	O	R	L	G	X	P	T	S	N	X	H	U	S
N	V	X	J	A	F	J	H	Y	I	W	A	M	O	M
N	U	U	I	B	C	U	L	S	L	M	O	W	Z	E
T	W	H	M	E	P	H	S	J	P	N	W	Z	A	I
G	F	Y	V	S	T	E	T	I	K	D	O	Y	Y	K
W	H	I	M	A	L	Y	O	L	P	X	M	M	X	L
Y	V	E	H	B	V	N	I	I	A	Y	E	T	D	L
G	B	T	H	B	S	B	V	C	N	E	N	Z	E	X
U	I	W	U	H	J	S	M	Y	V	B	H	L	I	A
P	N	O	I	T	A	Z	I	N	O	I	N	U	V	M
Z	R	P	X	N	V	E	T	E	R	A	N	D	R	V
G	X	V	I	K	W	Z	Z	H	Y	Z	P	O	W	C
V	K	B	Q	B	R	Q	X	N	R	O	N	U	W	H
T	H	Z	J	I	G	J	S	G	W	M	P	D	S	V

Anxiety	Championship	Unionization
Baseball	Healthcare	Veteran
Blessing	Monk	Women

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