

SMU SPREADS HARMONY THROUGHOUT INTERNATIONAL WEEK

Katie Hawkins
Staff Writer

Saint Martin's participated in International Education Week this year from November 16—20 in which they put on daily activities for all students to enjoy. With "harmony" as this year's theme, The Office of International Programs and Development (OIDP) organized new activities such as a MythBusters workshop on cultural misunderstandings, as well as community-wide favorites such as the International Taste of Culture.

"The purpose of International Education Week is to showcase the different international students and groups that we have on campus, as well as American students that want to celebrate other cultures," said Haley Thompson, Director of the OIDP.

Monday, November 16 included the MythBusters workshop where students could learn about different classroom culture of universities around the world. Monday also offered an OIDP open house where students and staff had a chance to see what services are available, while also enjoying cake and a raffle.

Tuesday was the 20th celebration of the International Taste of Culture where food and entertainment was provided by students, staff, and local restaurants. Students enjoyed a range of cuisines, from Br. Vincent's French truffles to Br. Kenneth's famous fried clams.



Students share their culture through taste at one of the year's biggest events

Photo by Ninalynn Benitez

"This is really a joint effort"

"The German food and the spring rolls were my favorite" said student Walter Kassil. Other students favored the Russian beet salad and soup, as well as the Japanese stew. And of course, entire tables offered up their high opinion of the fried clams, served enthusiastically by Dr. Jeff Birkenstein and Dr. David Price.

Performers included the Academy of International Education (AIE), Dr. Stephen Mead, Dr. Joseph Bessie, the Hawaiian Club, Japanese students from Reitaku University, and Jason Seid.

Tuesday also offered a Spotlight on Study Abroad where students could specifically learn about the traveling process, as well as hearing stories from SMU students who have already been through the program. The Study Abroad Fair on Thursday was also available for students to learn about the

program.

"We want to get the benefits of studying abroad out there," said Thompson. "There are so many opportunities."

Next was The Playing for Change Concert that took place on Wednesday, November 18 in The Moore Theater in Seattle. Playing for Change is a band made up of nine musicians from around the world with the idea that music has the power to break down boundaries and overcome distances between people.

"It was an amazing concert, and the students all had a blast," said Thompson. "It was also good for the international students to experience a concert in America because it might be different than what they are used to."

The week ended with the International Tea Time on Friday. Students and staff were able to drop

SEE HARMONY, B1

SOCIETY OF FELLOWS INDUCT 11



Photo submitted by Jeff Birkenstein

Inductees include (pictured from left): Robert Jobst, Michelle Short, Katie Hawkins, Ryan Boley, Eric McKnight, Krinda Carlson, Dara Zack, Jamey Gelhar, PJ Spanier, Steven Campbell, Miles McClinton, and Senior Fellow Jeff Birkenstein

Jake Kinderman
Staff Writer

Saint Martin's University Society of Fellows welcomed its newest class of inductees on Tuesday November 10 in the Worthington Center.

"It is exciting every semester to welcome in a new, outstanding group of student fellows" said Senior Fellow Jeff Berkenstein, who hosted the event. The inductions featured Dr. Berkenstein reading brief biographies of the inductee's accomplishments at SMU, after which Dr. David Price awarded each inductee a medal.

The Society of Fellows is Saint Martin's University's honor society founded by Father Michael Feeney, O.S.B. in 1971. The society recognizes students and faculty who excel not only in the classroom, but in the SMU community as well. Every biography described how each inductee has shined at SMU and grown to be a leader in the community. President Roy Heynderickx concluded the night with a speech on leadership. Dr. Heynderickx started his speech explaining that he was originally going to

title his speech "Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow," but changed his mind when he realized that the inductees were already leaders in the community. He quoted many American leaders including John Quincy Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt and Benjamin Franklin. Dr. Heynderickx used these quotes to describe characteristics of leadership and gave examples of these characteristics by comparing them to the feats of the new inductees.

The sense of accomplishment and excitement can be felt in the group photo taken at the end of the night.

SEE INDUCTEES, B1

THE CROWN NIKOLAO CROWNED MISS UNIVERSITY

Trinity Hoffman
Staff Writer

The first Miss University pageant for Saint Martin's University female students, "The Crown," was held November 20. The event, sponsored by the Filipino Heritage Club, has become hopeful as an annual event.

"Originally, we thought that we were the first pageant to be done at Saint Martin's, but when we went to buy the tiara, the lady who sold it said that she's a Saint Martin's graduate and they did pageants all the time," said Filipino Club Vice President Bianca Galan.

In recent history, SMU female students had no opportunity to compete in pageants on campus. Male students had the "King of Hearts" competition, so when Galan and the club committee started thinking about raising money, they decided to do something for just the girls.

SEE CROWN, B1



CROWN
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The original motivation for the event was to raise money for charities, but that is against ASSMU rules, so the Filipino Club decided to continue with the project and instead focus the proceeds toward the club. However, they want to eventually return to their original idea of donating to charities.

“It was exciting being able to put on an event that whole school can take part in,” said Galan. “It was fun; many of the contestants said that they would do it again.”

Participants of the pageant included: Ana Arreola, Lilia Bahena, Ellen Cabading, Jennifer Ganal, Martha Laumoli, Charlotte Menze, Soimavi Nikolao, Chanell Sagon, Angela Shirley and Leua Tofaeono.

The night began with each contestant being escorted out for a judging in semi-formal dress. While on stage, participants were asked a question by one of the many judges represented from the Saint Martin's community. After the final question, a short intermission was held for the contestants to prepare for the talent portion.

Guest performer Mark Dela Rosa entertained the crowd during intermission. "It was a nice change from the typical mainstream music played at the event" mentioned junior Roni Jo Mielke.

INDUCTEES
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Robert Jobst

- Returning to school after 20 years of service to the US Navy
- Member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; the Society of Women Engineers; and Pi Tau Sigma, the International Mechanical Engineering Honor Society
- Volunteered for 16 years as a tax preparer for an Internal Revenue program called Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)/ Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)



Katie Hawkins

- Co-Editor and Co-Author of the book *One Rule, Many Men: The Monks of Saint Martin's Abbey*
- Secretary of Saint Martin's University chapter of the Sigma Tau Delta National English Honor's Society
- Selected twice for GNAC Academic All-Conference for the SMU women's basketball team



Miles McClintock

- Received the Saint Martin's University School of Business's Wall Street Journal Award
- Has been placed on the both the President's List and Dean's List for all semesters at both South Puget Sound Community College and Saint Martin's University
- Works as a business and accounting tutor in the Learning and Writing Center



Michelle Short

- Captain of the Saint Martin's women's basketball team for the 2008-2009 season
- Served as a Junior Achievement Consultant and a volunteer in North Thurston Schools in helping children learn to read
- Member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and a current volunteer Assistant Coach for the SMU women's basketball team

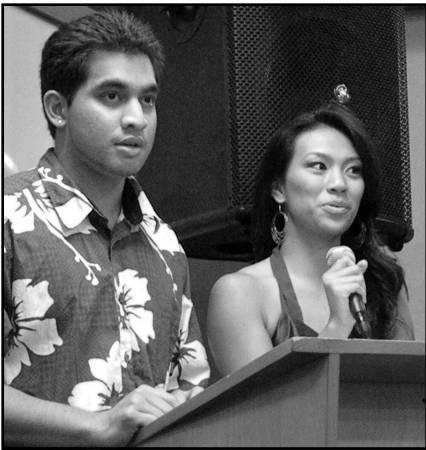


Students were fired up for the next part of the pageant as each contestant did their best to amaze the crowd and the judges with their talents. Talents ranged from a rendition of Shakespeare's “A Midsummer Night's Dream” to acoustic performances, singing, dancing, and a speed sketch of Jesus to the song “Wizards in Winter” by Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

The night concluded with the announcing of Miss University herself, Soimavi Niokolao. Niokolao received a bouquet of flowers, a tiara, and cash prize for dazzling the crowd in the semi-formal judging and entertaining with her Samoan Princess/ Barbie Girl remix with guest appearance from Ahmadou Seck.

Above: Jon Hew Len, and Jenny Caberto host the night's event

Below: Contestants Lilia, Charlotte, Ellen, Soimavi, Chanell, Leua Martha, Angela, Ana, and Jennifer



Photos by Nick Harvey

Eric McKnight

- Member of Pi Tau Sigma; the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; the Institute of Electrical Electronics; and the American Legion
- A Civil Air Patrol Officer for the United States Air Force Auxiliary's Mount Rainier Composite Squadron
- Volunteers in the youth and children's ministry at Sumner Presbyterian Church



Krinda Carlson

- Nominee and representative at the State Capital as a Scholar Athlete, recognized on the House floor by Representative Eric Pettigrew in Bill HR4647
- Has had four articles published in a Christian magazine for teens, *Devozone*
- NCAA Academic Champion in Track and Field with an overall GPA of 4.0



PJ Spanier

- Once owned an auto dealership in Colorado while managing several others
- Volunteered at events such as Bread and Roses, the Salvation Army Kitchen, and the Puget Sound Healthcare Center
- Worked on a summer internship at the Boys and Girls Club of Thurston County conducting research on the grief and loss on children with absent fathers



Dara Zack

- ESPN Academic All-District women's basketball first-team in spring 2009 and GNAC Women's Basketball All-Academic Team in 2008-2009
- Volunteered at events such as the Day of Caring, Junior Achievement, and coach of a Special Olympics team in 2001-2003.
- Worked for the YMCA of the Inland Northwest with at risk kids in the Spokane community



HARMONY
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

by the Harned Hall lounge and enjoy Tanzanian tea with some African beats and good conversation.

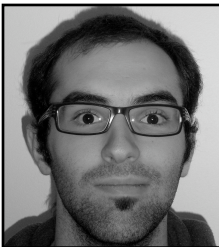
The office started late this summer in order to prepare for International Education Week, and used all resources possible to make it one that the

Saint Martin's community can appreciate and enjoy.

“This is really a joint effort,” said Thompson. The OIDP, students, faculty and clubs participated in this world wide effort to inspire harmony not only within the Saint Martin's community, but in the world.

Steven Campbell

- Secretary of the Saint Martin's University Collegiate section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- Designed a minute air conditioning absorption cycle for use by armed forces
- In process of designing an affordable water purification system for developing countries and a more efficient industrial paper dryer using infra red



Jamey Gelhar

- Four year starter for the Saint Martin's women's basketball team
- Set the all time, all-division NCAA national record for consecutive free throws (78) and appeared in *Sports Illustrated* in 2009
- Principal author of a number of research papers including work analyzing McGregor's *Theory X* versus *Theory Y* management styles



Ryan Boley

- Saint Martin's University Deans List Award
- Member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Pi Tau Sigma Honor Society, Member of American Society of Mechanical and Civil Engineers
- Treasurer of Saint Martin's University College Republicans



ACTORS PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS IN “THE DINING ROOM”



Left to right: Taylor Simpson, Ryan Cullitan, Ryan Martin Holmberg, Emilie Schnabel, Matthew Gochenouer, Olivia Baumgartner

Elena Larson

Staff Writer

I can't say that I remember in detail of how the Midnight Sun Performance Space in downtown Olympia looked from the outside, but the little room that they called a “theater” was compressed, and I don't recommend that a person who has fear of tight spaces come near. The space only provided 36 seats, so it was no wonder I felt as though I knew the other 35 people sitting in the close confines of the room. The term that I would use to define this theater as close to an adjective as it can be is “cozy.”

What was immediately noticed upon entry was the dining room in the middle of the set with white matching chairs tucked under the table. The set, closely related to the title of the play, didn't catch anyone by surprise.

“The Dining Room,” written by A.R. Gurney and directed by David Hlavsa, had complicated relationships mixed into one huge jumble in which it was difficult to differ which actor was which character. The actors (Emilie Schnabel, Matthew Gochenouer, Ryan Cullitan, Taylor Simpson, Olivia Baumgartner and Ryan Martin Holmberg) would switch from character to character similar to musical chairs. Half of the play was spent figuring out who each character was.

Pushing confusion aside, there are

relationships in the play that you and I can quite closely relate to. The play seems to put the dining room into glorification of the true meaning of what makes a family: blindfolded and lost. It is only in the second half of the play that the characters begin to realize this, and a flirtatious female (Schnabel) realizes, looking at the label under the table with the help of the handsome carpenter, that the dining room is only made out of wood.

When coming back into reality I felt mentally provocative, playing a guessing game with who was who with the actors of The Dining Room. But, hey! At least I learned that a table is, in actuality, merely made out of wood.



Photos by Ninalynn Benitez

SAINT MARTIN'S CHORAL GIVES AND EARNS PRAISE

Chris Wilson

Staff Writer

The anticipation that filled the Saint Martin's Abbey on November 11 was nothing new for the venue. The Sacred Music Concert has always been exceedingly popular and this year was no exception. The room was full at 7:15 p.m.—it was packed by 7:25. People were lined up against the walls and hidden in the hallways: there wasn't space for spectators to breathe, but somehow there was room for music.

The show began with a short speech by Fr. Benedict quoting St. Augustine, “To sing is to pray twice.” The first song, “Secure,” began outside the main room, confusing spectators. However, it quickly became apparent that this song was an a cappella introduction to the tone of the program. The next song, “Gloria,” was no surprise choice: it is a

favorite among most choirs as the incredibly simple lyrics consist of one line “gloria in excelsis deo.” When the actual lyrics ceased to be important (about repetition number four), deep and rich harmonies were achieved giving credence to St. Augustine's quote.

The program was halted momentarily to remember Sergeant Dale Russel Griffin, a Saint Martin's student who recently died while serving in Afghanistan. Susan Leyster of Campus Ministry asked for a moment of silence from the crowd. There was only one noise during the moment, a baby was cooing in the crowd: a very human reminder of hope in the face of death.

Chani Lupo broke the silence with Prelude in C minor #20 by Chopin. As usual, Lupo dazzled the crowd with her technically proficient and emotional understanding of the piece. This was followed by “Help Us, O Lord,” which was
SEE CHOIR, D1

GSA FIGHTS FOR RIGHTS & RESURRECTION

Tristan Beach

Staff Writer

Two unidentified men attacked a female Georgetown University student on the night of October 27, 2009. The student was just about to enter the campus when the two men accosted her, barring her from entering and began calling her derogatory terms. One of the men grabbed her bag and struck her with it, forcing her onto the ground. Afterwards, the two ran off. Although she only received minor injuries, the attack was all the more heinous because it was a hate crime. The men didn't like her t-shirt.

Because her shirt sported a “support gay rights” logo, the two strangers assumed she was a lesbian and targeted her for it.

Georgetown University is a very liberal, very progressive Catholic school. Many see it as a model for other Catholic institutions since it is the oldest in the country, as well as the largest and arguably most prestigious. What does this story have to do with Saint Martin's University, a remote little Catholic school in the Pacific Northwest? Although we are certainly *not* Georgetown in terms of size, prestige and age, many of the issues Georgetown faces are the same ones we face as well. One issue in particular is the sometimes blatant—but most often hidden—discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Saint Martin's is known for being a very welcoming school with an increasingly progressive student body. Since we gained university status back in 2005, our campus has experienced a great deal of diversification. The population of minority students has risen and several clubs and support groups have emerged as a result. One of the newest additions to our campus is the Gay-Straight Alliance Club, which was started at the beginning of this semester. However, the GSA Club is not a new idea, nor is this the first time SMU has had one on campus.

The earliest version of the SMU GSA Club appeared in 2001, and although it was a very progressive move by our students, the club had few members, little support and eventually folded after the first semester. No one was able to push the club and get the support it needed. In the past our school as a whole has avoided addressing LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) issues. It was only natural that the first club had a rather lukewarm reception.

“We're a campus that's pretty far behind when it comes to support services for LGBTQ students,” says John Hopkins, director of SMU Office of Intercultural Initiatives. “When I first got here, I had the sense that it was a quiet topic—the kind you talk about with the door closed.” Hopkins came to SMU in the fall semester of 2006, eagerly anticipating a student body diverse enough to include a GSA club on its university website. However, when he got here, Hopkins was disappointed to learn that the GSA club no longer existed.

At that time, the 2005 version of the club was still listed on the website, although it had also folded just like its first incarnation in 2001. The 2005 GSA Club had gained some notoriety in its early days. The club was albeit too progressive for our campus. Tamara “Joey” Hall, the co-president of the club, was its most active member and worked hard to make GSA a strong force on campus. However, her efforts proved in vain.

“We weren't able to keep the momentum going,” she says, reflecting back on what led to the club's eventual breakdown. She expresses that although the club began strong, attempting to bring forth a lot of LGBTQ issues, the club did not have enough support. One particular incident also led to a great deal of misunderstanding and open discrimination against its members.

Hall recalls that for the day of silence, the club drew chalk body outlines of LGBTQ
SEE GSA, D1

HUSTLE MEANS HARD WORK

On the heels of the most successful men’s basketball season in school history, the Saints have a new look, new leaders and the same attitude that propelled them to the top last year. Make no mistake about it, this team is here to win

Brandon Jones
Sports Editor

The Saint Martin’s University men’s basketball team definitely has it easy this year. Replace four seniors, all starters, who averaged over a combined 50 points. Yep, no tall task there.

But somehow, the Saints have managed to do it and they’re doing it well early on in the season. As of December 2, the Saints’ men team is 5-0 with six very winnable games coming up before GNAC competition starts. So what have the Saints done to adjust? Well, there are a few key factors which are benefitting the 2009-10 model of the Saints, and one of those is defense.

Replacing a scorer like Jake Linton, a wing player like Tyler Nixon, an all-around fundamental big man like Bill Richardson and a glue guy like Justin Alexander is pretty much impossible. What the Saints and coach Keith Cooper have done is incredible, especially when looking back at last year’s team stats compared to this season’s thus far.

This year, the Saints are winning games by a margin of +17.6 (meaning they are averaging 17.6 more points than their opponents). Last year’s margin? +6.3. It’s not that this year’s team is scoring more (they are only averaging 77.6 ppg as opposed to 84.6 last year), but they are stifling their opponent’s offenses. The Saints are also outworking their opponents as they are averaging 10.8 more rebounds per game than their opponents (last year was 2.5).

So, as a team the Saints are doing quite well. Individually, one player has stepped his game up immensely since last year. Blake Poole, a 6-foot-5 junior, was a force to be reckoned with last year as he scored 15.1 ppg and gobbled up a league leading 10.6 rebounds every contest to earn conference honorable mention honors. This year, Poole has stepped up even more averaging 19.8 ppg to go with



Blake Poole leads Saints in scoring, rebounds and assists

Photos by Steve Herppich

10 boards. He’s gotten to the free throw line 36 times this year and is shooting over 80 percent at the charity stripe. If that’s not enough to impress the GNAC and everybody else, Poole leads the team in blocked shots with 7 and is tied for first in steals at 9. Still not enough? How about this, the big man from Eugene, OR is leading the team in assists with 3.8 per game!

With Poole leading the way, the Saints have a strong leader to guide them into GNAC competition. With certain double teams on the Saints’ star player, shooters like Brady Bomber and Galen Squiers should get some open looks from beyond the arc. Also, look for wing players Jared Howard and Jeremy Green to pick up the rebounding load and wreak havoc on opposing defenses with their athletic offensive skill sets.

So far, the Saints have four players scoring in double digits. Look for Howard and Green to turn things up going into the GNAC as Poole sees more double teams down on the low block. Green is shooting 63 percent on the year and averaging over 11 points per contest.

Squiers will also get some good looks when teams decide to clog the middle. Squiers has not quite found the touch from the outside yet, but when he does, the Saints’ offense will open up and be able to score on opponents from anywhere on the floor.

The young bench has not seen much action lately, but look for them to contribute early in the game to take the workload off of players like Poole and Squiers who are posting high minutes per game.

This year could shape up to be a surprising one for everybody, including Saints fans. The competition will only get stiffer from here and the one thing the Saints have not answered yet is how they will bounce back if things go badly during conference play. This young team still has a lot to learn, but past experience, good coaching and hustle have gotten them five in a row, no need to stop now.

Right: Starter Galen Squiers defends ball against Evergreen Geoducks

2009-10 Saints Men’s Basketball

2 Eric Taylor	Fr.	G
3 Galen Squiers	Jr.	G
4 Charlie Severs	Sr.	G
15 Kyle Karnofski	Fr.	G
20 Brady Bomber	Fr.	G
21 Ryan Votaw	So.	G
22 Roger O'Neill	Fr.	F
32 Jeremy Green	So.	F
34 Jared Howard	Sr.	F
42 Dane Henze	Sr.	C
44 Blake Poole	Jr.	C
45 Matt Dodson	Fr.	C

Scoring Leader:	Blake Poole 19.8 ppg
Rebounder Leader:	Blake Poole 10 rpg
Assist Leader:	Blake Poole 3.8 apg

Season prediction: If this early season success is any indication, I would expect the Saints to finish in the top three of the conference. That may be a bit of a bold statement considering the tough competition of the GNAC, but I think that, as a team, the Saints are starting to come together and get a feel for each other’s tendencies. I did not expect them to be this solid defensively so far, and I never thought they would have more than two guys in double figures. But you have to remember that last year there were plenty of options on the floor and not a lot of shots were given to guys like Poole and Squiers. Now, the ball is primarily in their hands and they are putting up the stats. Poole’s efficiency is amazing right now. The high FG percentage, the assists, boards, steals and everything else he is doing is making everyone around him better. Though the Saints do well as an athletic team on the fast break, it would be nice to see them go early and often to Poole down low. If they establish his presence and he begins to dominate, double teams will come. This will open the game up for the Saints’ shooters to step in with some open looks. This does not mean Poole will be taken out of the offense because he hits the offensive glass so hard, he’s still bound to score. This team may not be as talented as last year’s, but they will still entertain and win games. The GNAC coaches poll says the Saints finish in eight place, I say:

***My Prediction: 19-8 (W-L)
9-7 GNAC***



Putting the Pieces Together



Coach Tim Healy looks for a better season after a finish of 16-12 last year

Photos by Steve Herppich

2009-10 Saints Women’s Basketball

3	Destiny Schang	G	Jr.
10	Roni Jo Mielke	G	Jr.
11	Britanie Lining	G	Fr.
12	Dara Zack	F	Jr.
13	Danika Lawson	F	Sr.
15	Shelby Ferguson	G	Fr.
20	Megan Busch	G	Sr.
21	Emily Lashua	C	So.
22	Megan Teade	F	So.
23	Keisha McDonald	G	So.
25	Jamey Gelhar	G	Sr.
30	Kelsey Baker	F	So.
34	Katie Hawkins	F	Jr.
42	Krissy Basset	F	Sr.
44	Kellie Snyder	F	Jr.

Scoring Leader:	Dara Zack 16 ppg
Rebounder Leader:	Dara Zack 9.3
Assist Leader:	Dara Zack 3.7

Season prediction: Saint Martin’s has gotten off to a slow start this year, but that is no reason to panic. The same core group that went 16-12 last year will get better, they almost have to. A more experienced team this year, the lady Saints should be cutting mistakes and have better overall on-court team chemistry. Coach Tim Healy will also have a better grasp of what his team’s strengths and weaknesses are which leads me to believe the Saints will get better soon. The one thing I’ve noticed is that the Saint’s seem to come out flat. They are being outscored 107-111 in the first half in three games this year which is surprising considering their fast paced offense and strong shooters. The Saints have the edge in the second half, outscoring their opponents 138-132. This shows that the Saints are capable of wearing down their opponents, but playing catch up is never easy. Dara Zack is once again proving the go-to player in the system, but hoisting up 13 shots per game and shooting only 35 percent so far this year may be taking shots out of other capable scorers hands. I’d like to see Jamey Gelhar get some more shots up (Avg. 6.3 a game) and pushing the ball inside and back out to shooters like Megan Teade and Roni Jo Mielke. Also, Katie Hawkins and Krissy Basset have very good mid-range games for post players which could give opposing players fits. As long as the other Saints aren’t taking the shots though, Zack is the most capable scorer and will get to the line, often putting opposing team’s bigs in foul trouble. The Saints are doing exactly that as they have shot 40 more free throws than their opponents. Right now, the Saint’s are struggling to make shots shooting a lowly 35 percent from the field.

SAINTS OFF TO A SLOW START

Offensive struggles plaguing team early

Brandon Jones
Sports Editor

“Slow and steady wins the race.” Too bad we’re talking about basketball. The Saint Martin’s women’s basketball team has gotten off to a slow start this year, surprising, considering last year’s strong season.

Things really aren’t too bad for the Saints who are now 2-2 in the regular season. The team went 7-9 in the GNAC last year and 16-12 overall. This year’s squad returns 11 players, but a loaded GNAC does not bode well for the Saints who were picked to finish fifth in the conference.

What most don’t realize about SMU is how deep they really are. Last year, nine players averaged 10 minutes or more a game. This deep bench supplements the fast paced offensive game the Saints play.

The Saints’ offense was ranked fourth in the GNAC last year, averaging 70.2 points per game. Defensively, things did not go so well as they gave up 68.5 ppg, second to last in the conference. A lack of height also hurt the Saints as they finished in the bottom half of the conference in both rebounding and blocked shots.

The fact that last year’s team never did anything spectacularly well and still managed to garner 16 wins is a testament to their hustle play and strong individual performances.

The Saint’s return Dara Zack, a conference first-team all-star who was the third best scorer in the GNAC at 14.3 ppg to go along with 8.8 rebounds per game.

Point guard Jamey Gelhar also returns as last year’s GNAC and national free throw percentage leader, including an NCAA record 78 in a row.

The Saints will need one or two more players to step their game up this year if they hope to land in the top four. Last year, guard Roni Jo Mielke showed signs of being a top guard in the conference and a solid option on offense as she lead the conference in three point percentage at 57.6% before going down to injury.

This year the Saint’s are struggling with offense, period. In four games, they have 41 assists and a whopping 81 turnovers. Only two players are scoring in double digits (Zack and Basset) and the team is shooting 35% from the field. If these numbers do not improve, the Saints could be slaughtered in the GNAC.

The Saints do not have too much height down low as Basset does most of the low post scoring, but their strength lies in their shooters and fast break offense. Thus far, Gelhar has found the stroke from downtown as she is shooting 60 percent from the three point line. Mielke is also finding the touch she had last year from deep, shooting 50 percent.

The Saint’s have improved on their rebounding so far, grabbing an average of four more boards than their opponents per game. The Saints are also being aggressive. Taking the ball to the hole has helped them get to the line forty more times than their opponents and making over 80 percent.

The Saint’s are not in a bad spot right now, but their play must improve over the next few weeks before they hit a very strong GNAC. With the amount of experience on the time and the on court chemistry, which should come about in the next few weeks, the Saints could easily upset top teams. No more slow and steady for the Saints, please.

My Prediction: 19-10 (W-L); 8-8 GNAC

Saints Lashua, Teade, Lawson, and Ferguson prepare for game as part of smallest rotation in GNAC



Soul Solutions:

THE “I” IN THE INNKEEPER

Krinda Carlson
Staff Writer

“And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

I like stories. This time of year, the Nativity Story always comes to my mind. I remember hearing this classic verse as a child and getting so upset that baby Jesus had no cozy room to sleep in. Now, I wonder instead about the innkeeper’s story.

The innkeeper is frequently portrayed as a heartless man in productions of the Nativity. But, the fact is, Bethlehem was swamped with travelers at the time because of the census taking place in the empire. He probably was rushing about trying to find extra bedding, food, and stalls for the animals of his boarders. When Mary and Joseph tried to find a place to stay, I’m sure the busy man simply told them the truth: “I’m sorry. I’m booked. I don’t have time right now!” It wasn’t *meant* to be a cruel gesture. Yet, the two tired travelers found themselves in the cold, with Mary ready to give birth, and no place to stay.

Joseph eventually found shelter where animals were being kept – some studies suggest it was a cave, others a small stable. Regardless, Jesus was born amongst the noise and smells of a barnyard, and the innkeeper had no idea. Lost in the hectic schedule of his booked business, the man missed the opportunity to house Mary and the Savior, Jesus Christ...and he didn’t even realize it! Yet, the most upsetting part about the innkeeper’s loss is that the same thing still happens every day; after over two-thousand years, there’s often no room for Jesus in our world.

We’re all the innkeepers of our lives. We book ourselves, fill our empty “rooms,” and decide how we want to adorn our schedules. I don’t know about you, but sometimes I get so busy that I wish I had a big “No Vacancy” sign to hang up, warning all further requests and commitments away! Because of this, especially around the Christmas season, I miss the opportunity. The *knock, knock* comes. I rationalize, “My schedule’s too booked! I don’t have time.” I turn away Jesus, who is inviting me to let him come and bring peace it the midst of it all.

Jesus says in John 14:23 that when we allow Him in, God will love us and make his home with us; with that, comes His promise, “My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you” (verse 27). Jesus offers the very thing I need most when things are busy. The thing is, I have to make a room for Him in my life to stay so that His peaceful presence can begin permeating my entire dwelling. So, this year I’m doing things different. When everything else appears booked, I am giving Jesus *MY* room. I can’t think of a better way to allow Jesus to be a part of my schedule than to give Him residence where my human will usually lives!

The question then remains: what will you do when the *knock-knocking* comes to your door? It will come. As the innkeeper of your life, you have a choice.

GSA
CONTINUED FROM B2

individuals who had been victims of lethal hate crimes. Hall and the rest of the GSA Club’s members were hoping to get people’s attention. It worked. However, the club experienced a strong backlash.

“My favorite quote is ‘Judge not lest ye be judged,’ and I put that on my whiteboard and it was the first thing to get destroyed,” recounts Hall. She claims that her room on campus had been broken into several times, her belongings trashed and destroyed. Anonymous derogatory messages were left on her whiteboard. Hall eventually left Saint Martin’s. The GSA Club, which had only a few members to begin with, crumbled.

Three years later, Riane Cardenas entered Saint Martin’s and gave the GSA Club another chance.

“People are starting to say ‘Maybe it’s time for a change in this community’ and ‘Maybe this person will bring that to this campus,’” says Riane Cardenas. “That’s all I want, I just want a safe zone. And I don’t care if I get the blows. I don’t care if people target me because of the club. I’d rather take the fall for the club than for the club to take the fall.”

Cardenas began gathering support for the GSA Club before it had even been established. All throughout the second semester of her freshman year and during the summer she began generating support from school officials, student representatives and several diversity-based clubs. Her passion for bringing LGBTQ issues to light and to creating a safe environment for people has allowed her to establish a relatively successful GSA Club. So far the club has experienced little, if any, negative response, and has more than 30 members.

Hopkins attributes part of the club’s successful reception to changing attitudes.

“I don’t get the ‘squirrelies.’ You know, when people are ‘squirreling in their chairs’ to show they are feeling uncomfortable,” says Hopkins. That typically was the case when I first got here, talking about sexual orientation in general or a GSA club. I guess that might be a signal that we’ve moved forward to some extent.” This moving forward, Hopkins feels, is a result of SMU’s diversification. With more students of color and varying ethnic backgrounds on campus, the idea of having a group that supports non-heterosexual students and raises awareness of LGBTQ issues is not as surprising.

However, this does not mean people are completely accepting of homosexuals. Discrimination still thrives hidden under the pretext of anonymity.

“Whenever we’ve had a program that’s



Riane Cardenas

brought in LGBTQ issues, I’ve received some pretty scathing e-mails,” says Hopkins, “I don’t know who they’re from.” Although Hopkins, Cardenas, and many others involved with the GSA Club have not yet experienced open or at least nonverbal attacks since the club recently started, there is no guarantee that they will never happen.

Saint Martin’s is a Catholic institution whose strongest values include hospitality—welcoming people from all walks of life and providing a safe environment for students. GSA Club does more than just educate, it acts as a support group for students who need to feel safe being who they are.

One reason why GSA may not be received so easily by a Catholic institution is a misunderstanding of the Catholic Church’s teaching regarding homosexuals and homosexuality. Homosexuals as people are no more or less sinful than heterosexuals. The Church teaches that God loves people regardless of orientation. However, the Church finds the act of homosexuality (sex) as sinful. It goes against the belief that sex must be an effort to procreate and constitutes extramarital sex. Despite this distinction, the stigma against homosexuals persists and many feel that the Catholic Church’s stance may be too conflicting and paradoxical.

“I get the impression that joining the club would indicate that I support gay marriage and the practice of homosexuality (as opposed to merely having a same-sex attraction, but not acting on it),” says sophomore Paul Weeks. Although Weeks wishes to join the club, six years of Catholic private schooling and a lifetime of being bombarded by anti-gay sentiments from a variety of sources have created a conflict within him.

“I want to join to show that I believe in treating people with dignity, regardless of their sexual orientation,” says Weeks. “Too many people believe that it is their Catholic mission to hate homosexuals.”

GSA’s presence on campus will undoubtedly stir up emotions. Many will support it in the long run, some will condemn it, and several others like Paul Weeks will feel conflicted. The incident at Georgetown is a reminder of people’s continuing hatred toward gays and lesbians, even in a liberal and welcoming environment. While our environment at Saint Martin’s is very welcoming, it isn’t perfect. Our GSA Club will have an uphill climb.

“We are a university based on Benedictine values,” says Cardenas, “we’re a university based on moral and communal truth. I think that’s what we should rely on: this truth and awareness and to be hospitable to those who sign up to be a part of GSA—straight or homosexual—because it is an alliance it is an education process.”

CHOIR
CONTINUED FROM B2

followed by another solo, this time by Jacob Kinderman. Kinderman’s deep and sonorous voice was an impressive contrast to the full sound of the choir.

The remainder of the program was filled with sacred favorites such as “Revelation 19” (always a crowd pleaser) and “Never Gonna Walk This Journey Alone.” The songs did everything they were supposed to as they were uplifting, powerful and most of all, spiritual. My

personal favorite was “Adoramus Te, Christe.” It was dissonant glory with all the right tinges of emotion.

One more thing that is worth acknowledging is the display of skill of the accompanist, Bruce Berry. Year after year, Berry’s flawless playing provides the groundwork for even the most complicated of pieces—hats off to you Berry. The effort and skill placed into this obvious labor of love suffused both the music and the spectators, and for another year, the Sacred Music Concert received a standing ovation, a respect that is in no way undeserved.

Below: Saint Martin’s Choir

Photo by Ninalynn Benitez



WOLVES REIGN IN *NEW MOON*

New Moon eclipses *Twilight* as biggest vampire movie in box office history

Tristan Beach
Staff Writer

Sanguivoriphobia means “fear of vampires”; *Lycaonphobia* means “fear of werewolves.” One of these days some brilliant psychologist somewhere will come up with a Latin term for the fear of “Twilight-infected teenaged female fanatics.” For now we’ll just call it TITFF.

Thursday’s midnight showing at Regal Cinemas of the newest movie in the Twilight Saga, “New Moon,” drew forth from the sleepy backwoods of the Lacey area hundreds of half-starved and sleepless TITFFs—along with a handful of their boyfriends and some of their male “emo” friends.

For several hours, TITFFs, reluctant boyfriends, faithful emo boys and other stragglers waited along the winding corridors of our local theater building. Dedicated fans sported Team Edward or Team Jacob shirts. Friends gossiped and exchanged info about the latest chick lit, fantasy/sci-fi novels and anime. The minutes began to count themselves as the Twilight hour drew near and everybody burned in a brutal heat of anticipation. Finally, we were let into auditorium number 12. More waiting ensued. I spent the precious two hours I had left familiarizing myself with the plot of the movie with a copy of “New Moon,” lent to me by a friend. I reached page 187 (the first forty minutes) by the time the previews finally started.

Good grief! The last hour was a killer. The twenty minutes of previews only thinned our patience.

Finally, at long last, as if out of no-where, a full moon appeared on the screen and slowly became eclipsed by a dark smudge leaving in its empty blackness N-E-W M-O-O-N.

The story begins with Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) parting ways with vampire boyfriend Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) after a bloody mishap at Bella’s birthday party, revealing that she is only safe if he is gone. Bella falls into a deep depression and becomes reckless and suicidal (exactly the opposite of what Edward was going for). However, she finds solace and comfort in spending time with a childhood friend Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner). Jacob has a crush on Bella, but she just can’t seem to reciprocate it. One of the villains from the first movie, a rogue vampire named Victoria (Rachelle Lefevre) is after Bella and she sends forth

her partner Laurent (Edi Gathegi) to capture the measly mortal Bella. With the Cullens gone, Bella is defenseless and would certainly become vampire chow if it weren’t for the interference of. . .duh! duh! duh! Werewolves! That’s right, Lautner and his pack of nasty dogs save the day and then some. However, if you think that’s the end of it, think again—the film is 130 minutes long and they’ve got to fill it with character developments and junk. Finally we get to the last 20 minutes of the film in which Bella and Edward reunite to fight off the Volturi (vampire royal family).

“New Moon” more or less fulfilled my expectations—which is not a good thing. I knew there would be crappy acting from the two lead characters: arrogant smugness and an unchangeable dour look do not mix well. We sense no chemistry between Bella, the narrator and main protagonist, and her fanged boyfriend, Edward. The Twilight series is the type of series in which the books were best left un-filmed. However, the sense that I got from talking to other fans of the series is that “New Moon,” arguably the weakest part in the book series, was better as a film than its prequel, “Twilight.” A bigger budget, a larger cast of well-known supporting actors, and more pronounced CG-effects (not to mention the melodramatic score and expert camerawork) made this a much better film to watch than the first of the installment. Two other things make it better: 1. Robert Pattinson is gone for most of the movie; and 2. Taylor Lautner becomes Bella’s potential love interest.

I confess I’m on Team Jacob. However, I’ve thrown off that bias for the sake of truth and precision when I say that, compared to Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner was the best of the three. Lautner gave his performance everything he had—rumor has it he was at risk of losing the role in this movie because he was perceived as not being handsome (or “wolfy”) enough. The young actor had to put his foot down and pack on some serious muscle to play a convincing CG-induced werewolf. However, when he wasn’t being a werewolf, Lautner frequently

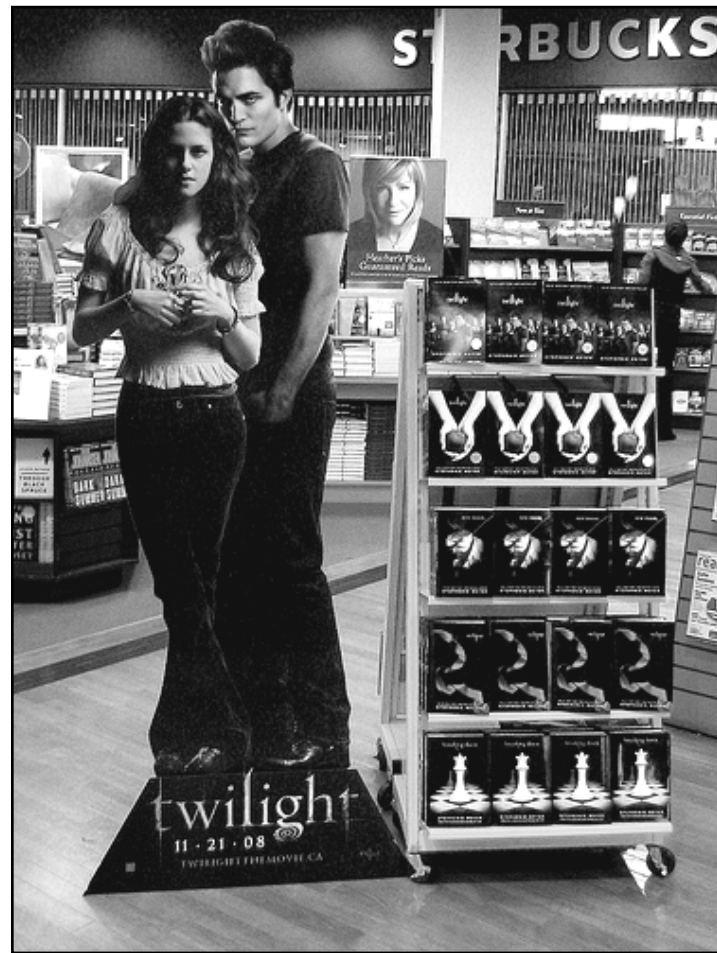


Photo by Nick Harvey

revealed his acting chops and got on most of his viewers’ good-sides by surpassing expectations.

Still, there was Kristen Stewart and her unchanging look, but a whole slew of quirky supporting actors to take up the slack, throwing in their two or three seconds of screen time with as much finesse as they could muster. All of the actors playing the Volturi were standouts—from the creepy Aro, played by Michael Sheen, to the devilish Jane, played by Dakota Fanning.

All in all, I feel this movie was hindered by its onscreen couple, but strengthened when that number was cut in half and a wolf got added to the equation. Aesthetically speaking, the movie itself was beautiful to look at, but the plot wasn’t too feasible. I somehow can’t swallow the idea of vegetarian vampires. Throw me a Count Olaf any day!

2012: MOVIE MAKES THE BOAT

This Must-See is Everything but Doomed

Amanda Hatman
Staff Writer

It seems unavoidable around this time of the year for the theaters not to be flooded with multiple variations of syrupy-sweet, hallmark-stylized, family-centric, holiday movies. Not that they don’t have merit, but let’s face it: Is waiting until next Christmas to watch one of them from your own couch really going to hold that great of sway on your critique? Probably not. You want holiday classics? Dust off “It’s a Wonderful Life,” laugh it up with Leary and Spacey in “The Ref,” or even better yet, surf your local channels, guaranteed Charlie Brown, Linus and his pathetic excuse for a tree are out there in space waiting for you. But if you want a movie that delivers for those extra couple of dollars and highway robbery concession bar snacks, check out “2012.”

The theme and general skeleton are nothing new to Roland Emmerich (“Independence Day,” “Godzilla” and “Day After Tomorrow”) or disaster movie audiences, and as the film points out, the

Mayans have been in on the end of the world for thousands of years. A cataclysmic event (in this case, solar flares from the sun of unprecedented size) sets a chain of events in motion to end the world. One time and languishing author of ironically enough an end-of-world story, Jackson Curtis (John Cusack) seems to be one of the last voices concerned with the morality of the world leader’s lifeboat ethics. Determined to save his family and his estranged wife’s new man, Cusack fights tooth and nail to stay one step ahead earthquakes, falling buildings, volcanoes and tsunamis.

Alright, so anyone who has seen the TV spots or trailers or read the reviews knows that “2012” has been lauded for its mind boggling special effects. What makes “2012” so compelling is Emmerich’s ability to infuse realistic, relatable characters, and a human interest story line into your stereotypical big-bang and boom disaster film.

Evidently scenes of burning infernos, massive fissures that swallow whole cities, and floods that gulp down countries are the perfect

backdrop to examine our daddy issues. Cusack, bringing his guy-next-door charm and great report with young actors does a great job of presenting a believable, average dad who is trying to set things right. The movie’s commander-in-chief, played by Danny Glover, is a good father to his daughter and country. Contrasting their selflessness, the president’s chief of staff (Oliver Platt) elects to leave ignorant and in the dust his infirmed mother and ex-wife, and the obscenely wealthy and self-interested stereotyped Russian oligarch Yuri (Zlatko Buric).

In the end, the wonderful, Chiwetel Ejiofor, who plays a humble U.S. Government Geologist, pulled in to the thick of the questionable politics and all, delivering a slightly cliched, but quotable speech that tugs at the heartstrings, and examines the essence of humanity. An all-star, terrifically acted cast, mind-blowing special effects, and a dash of kumbayas create the picture-perfect formula that makes “2012” a definite must see.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND SURROUNDING AREA

It’s that time of year again! The time when Starbucks changes the design of their to-go cups, lights adorn every building, red and green seems to take over the world, and, if we’re lucky, white comes to cover the dead leaves. It’s Christmas time! Olympia, and the surrounding area, offers plenty of activities and events to jumps-start a little seasonal spirit. Take advantage of some of these special holiday happenings in our community.

EVENTS WITH THE MAGIC WORD: “FREE”

FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS SALE

What: Local and regional artists come together to offer their works for sale. The finest arts and crafts of the region are promised to be present, providing opportunity to purchase unique gifts.
When: Weekends of December 5–13; Saturdays 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Where: State Capital Museum Coach House, 211 West 21st Ave., Olympia, WA 98501
Contact: (360) 493-0091 or www.kaynorarts.com

JUBILEE CONCERT

What: A youth and adult festive concert that is broadcasted on TCTV channel 3. The public is invited to come enjoy the voice talents and music live. In lieu of admission, non-perishable food items will be accepted for the Thurston County food bank (otherwise there is a fee).
When: Thursday, December 10, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Where: North Thurston Performing Arts Center, 600 Sleater-Kinney Road NE
Contact: (360) 412-4530

DOWNTOWN WITH SANTA

What: Get your photo with Santa and enjoy a free electric trolley ride as well as carolers and performances centered in the main streets of downtown Olympia.
When: Every Saturday in December before Christmas (12th, 19th, 26th), 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Where: Studio Four 18, 418 Washington Street SE 98501, Olympia, WA
Contact: Olympia Downtown Association (360) 357-8948

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

What: Meet for this chilling ritual that rings in the new year! Campfires, music, hot cocoa and coffee are provided, leading into the “plunge” as the finale. All ages welcome.
When: Thursday, January 1, 2010, 12 p.m. (plunge at 1:00 p.m.)
Where: Long Lake Park, 2790 Carpenter Rd SE
Contact: Lacey Parks and Recreation (360) 491-0857

FESTIVITIES FOR \$\$\$

THE NUTCRACKER BY WASHINGTON CONTEMPORARY BALLET

What: A beautiful and professional performance of the Nutcracker put on by the students and members of Washington Contemporary Ballet School.
Cost: \$18
When: December 11 at 7:30 p.m.; December 12 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and December 13 at 6 p.m.
Where: Mt. Tahoma High School auditorium, 4634 S. 74th Street, Tacoma, WA
Contact: (253) 474-4312 or www.wcbdance.org

ANNUAL HISTORIC HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

What: Gain entrance into the festively decorated Lord Mansion, home of the State Capital museum, where you can enjoy refreshments and musical performances. Santa will be present for pictures and an opportunity provided to ride in a replica 19th century horse-drawn carriage through the Capitol Neighborhood. Also, a petting zoo, children’s activities, and basket weaving demonstrations, along with a "Then and Now" exhibit that will be included in the event.
Cost: \$7
When: Saturday, December 12, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Where: State Capital Museum, 211 SW 21st Ave, Olympia
Contact: (360) 753-2580



THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!!!

Jake Kinderman
Staff Writer

PARKING TICKETS

Security hands out way too many tickets. They hand out tickets like insurance companies hand out denials. It is possible that every student on campus who owns a car has received at least one in their Saint Martin’s career. Most tickets come from students parking in visitor parking. Why would you charge a student who is already paying over \$12,000 a semester to attend SMU for parking in a spot reserved for someone who doesn’t pay anything to visit the school? If a student parks in a visitor’s parking space, just back off, and instead thank them for providing your paycheck with their tuition.

HATERS

People who criticize the newspaper, but do not have the courage to write to us. So far your criticisms have not

gone unnoticed and neither has your cowardice. If you have problems sending a letter to the editor, I would not suggest slipping a paper with three highlighted typos and an arrogant message written at the top, WITHOUT your name. If you have a comment, critique, or suggestion, we are more than welcome to accept them. Be a gentleman or a gentledady about your concerns and feel free to e-mail a question or comment in response to one of our articles.

CAFETERIA FOOD

The cafeteria food is good! That doesn’t make sense, and I am not complaining. Bon Appétit has risen above the pop-culture belief that cafeteria food will ruin your insides. Félicitations Bon Appétit! I am no longer nervous to eat in your fine establishment...unless it’s sloppy joes like in Billy Madison. Those should make everyone nervous.

Final examination schedule - Fall 2009

	Regularly scheduled class time	Final examination time
MWF	8 a.m.	Dec 14, 8 - 10 a.m.
	9 a.m.	Dec 16, 8 - 10 a.m.
	10 a.m.	Dec 15, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
	11 a.m.	Dec 14, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
	12 p.m.	Dec 16, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
	1 p.m.	Dec 14, 1 - 3 p.m.
	2 p.m.	Dec 14, 3:15 - 5:15 p.m.
	3 p.m.	Dec 16, 1 - 3 p.m.
	4 p.m.	Dec 16, 3:15 - 5:15 p.m.
TR	8 or 8:30 a.m.	Dec 17, 8 - 10 a.m.
	9:30 or 10 a.m.	Dec 15, 8 - 10 a.m.
	12 p.m.	Dec 17, 1 - 3 p.m.
	1 p.m. or 2 p.m.	Dec 15, 1 - 3 p.m.
	2:30 p.m. or 3:10 p.m.	Dec 15, 3:15 - 5:15 p.m.
	4:30 p.m.	Dec 17, 3:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Monday	Evening	Dec 14, Evening
Tuesday	Evening	Dec 15, Evening
Wednesday	Evening	Dec 16, Evening
Thursday	Evening	Dec 17, Evening

The Belltower

THE BELLTOWER STAFF

Co Editors: Brandon Jones Katie Hawkins	Layout Editor: Nick Harvey
Staff Writers: Tristan Beach Gary Fiorina Trinity Hoffman Elena Larson Emilie Schnabel	Photographer Ninalynn Benitez
	Krinda Carlson Amanda Hatman Jake Kinderman Chris Wilson

Role of the Advisor: The advisor is a journalist, educator and manager who is, above all, a role model. The advisor’s ultimate goal is to mold, preserve and protect an ethical and educational environment, not to monitor the final content of the student newspaper.
Belltower Advisor
Julie Yamamoto

WRITERS AND BUSINESS MANAGER WANTED!

Want to be involved in *The Belltower*? Pick up applications in the TUB and drop them off in room 175.

For Questions, comments, or suggestions, please send an email to Belltower@stmartin.edu, drop a note by room 175, or visit our Facebook page!

Our Mission: As fellow students at Saint Martin’s University, 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 the students at SMU. We will never back down from taking on any issue at our school and promise to give our best efforts to keep the community informed.