

# THE BELL TOWER

SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY MONTHLY STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume VIII

Issue 4

November 23, 2015

## Student directors share insights about SMU's one-act plays

**Roslyn Buff**  
Staff Writer

This fall, the Saint Martin's University Theatre Department put on two student-directed one-act plays. These plays included "WASP," written by renowned actor Steve Martin and directed by Jalen Penn, senior, and "The Receptionist," written

by Adam Bock and directed by Hope Chamberlain, junior. The plays premiered on Nov. 13 and ran through Nov. 21.

"WASP" depicts a typical family of the 1950s, complete with a mother, father, son and daughter. The satirical play starts out with the family sitting down to a meal and ends the same way, but the journey taken by the audience through the course of the story puts things in a whole new light.

"I really wanted to do something that was silly but still had some depth," Penn said of his choice to direct the Steve Martin play.

"He was one of my favorite people I've ever seen on SNL, and I knew I wanted

it from the beginning."

The director explained that he was interested in the way that the play shows an ironic light on the culture of the 50's. This satire becomes clear to the audience in moments of the play such as when Mother – played by first-year student Miranda Aguilar – talks to the "Voices" that we assume are in her head, and the voices talk back. Kema Hill, senior, played the role of "Female Voice."

"They're a 1950's white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant family who's supposed to be a perfect model of a family, but they have all these things they're trying to hide



Photos courtesy of Marki Carson

Premier, the ruler of Lepton councils the son in the WASP family.

to fit within their certain mold, and I wanted to shed some light on that," said Penn.

The play, "The Receptionist," details the events of a typical day at the Northeast Office, where Beverly the receptionist, played by Hill, interacts with office worker Lorraine, played by Jessica Varvil, sophomore, and her boss Raymond, played by Matthew Jankovic. see **Plays page D2**



The mother in WASP states her case.

## Let everyone shine

**Dimin Wen**  
Staff Writer

The second annual Multicultural Carnival at Saint Martin's University was held on the evening of Nov. 16. Assistant Director of the Office of International Programs and Development Breezie O'Neil stated that

she wanted all cultures from Saint Martin's to shine and have the carnival be a strong connection to all cultures.

O'Neil was running all over the place throughout the evening.

Students from eighteen countries come to Saint Martin's for school and also in order to communicate

with the world. Students representing most of the countries set up a table to display some food, drinks, clothes and handwriting at the event.

There were other performances, such as traditional Japanese and Chinese dances, Hawaiian songs, a Saudi Arabian instrument show and so on. Any one of these performances is unique in the world. That is who these students are. Those performances are their national mark. What a carnival shows is the pride

each student has for their motherland.

see **Shine page D2**



Traditional Chinese dancer



Photos courtesy of Blake Cloward

Students performed Soran Bushi for the audience.

### What's in this issue?

Classroom...B2

News.....D1

Lifestyles...G1

Op-Ed.....I2

Features....C1

Sports.....E1

CCR.....H2

Satire.....J2

### Tuition Fees



See Page B2

### Student Spotlight



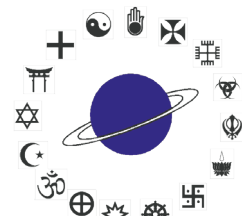
See Page E2

### Staff Bios



See Page F1

### Faith Series



See Page I1



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*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.*

To readers of *The Belltower* within the Saint Martin’s community and beyond,

Hello! My name is Cassidy Ristine, and I am a section editor and a senior English major at Saint Martin’s University. On behalf of all the staff members, thank you for picking up a copy of *The Belltower*.

The paper you hold in your hands is the final print issue for 2015. As a product, this paper represents hundreds of hours of meetings, interviews, event attendance, photography, writing, editing, layout work and distribution.

One of the unique benefits of having a campus outlet for journalism like The Belltower is being able to realize a conversation that is, at times, controversial, within a space designated for learning and growth. As you read this issue, you will undoubtedly encounter at least one perspective that differs from your own.

As I wrap up my final semester at Saint Martin’s, I have been reflecting on my time working with the paper. Speaking from personal experience, editing for *The Belltower* has proven to be a continuous challenge. Beyond the difficulties inherent in grappling with a large volume of written work—corralling it into grammatical shape, as well as somehow wrangling every sentence to fit AP style guidelines—I have disagreed with people and openly discussed differences in opinion.

This has been hard. I’m not going to lie. As a more introverted person and simultaneously someone who holds my beliefs as a Christian with passion and tenacity —however imperfectly— I have struggled a lot with this aspect of my job. But I have also learned much more than if I just surrounded myself with like-minded people. The tension created by differing perspectives helps us to grow and to refine what we believe.

With this in mind, please respond if you disagree with something in *The Belltower*. As a community, we benefit from dissenting voices. It is only when these voices are forcibly silenced or choose to remain silent that a publication like our campus newspaper stagnates.

Once again, thank you for reading.  
Stay shiny.

Cassidy Ristine

**\*Role of the adviser**

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

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

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

Or drop a note umder the door of the newsroom, HH 200

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## Fewer political science faculty: A concern for many students

**Cleo Pineda**  
*Staff Writer*

This semester, a handful of Saint Martin's University students have voiced their concerns regarding the political science department.

Recently, many schools across the nation have made mathematics and the sciences their priority in an attempt to increase the amount of graduates in these fields. Anxiety over the number of political science faculty may stem from the fact that the department has dwindled in comparison to other departments, particularly the engineering department.

"My main concern about the department is not the quality of professors but the quantity of attention paid to the political science department, as well as other humanities-based majors compared to STEM majors," said Jackie Schmaeling, history and political science double major.

Another political science and history double major, Matthew Jankovic, shared a similar worry about the lack of faculty members who specialize in political science.

"Dr. Snider retired last year, and this semester is Dr. Langill's last

semester. The history teachers have done a good job picking up the slack so far, but it's definitely strained. The lack of faculty means that our school struggles to offer the base required courses in both history and political science, and the more interesting specialized courses are rarely offered," said Jankovic.

As a double major, Jankovic has taken on a full course load including both disciplines for the last two years. The lack of courses offered in his desired departments has made it virtually impossible for him to accomplish this necessity in time for graduation.

"Last semester, I could only register for a total of four three-credit courses in both of my majors, as every other course being offered was one I had already taken," Jankovic explained.

Jankovic is not the first to respond to the growing stress of fulfilling graduation requirements in order to better prepare students for life after graduation.

Niya Tawachi, a senior political science and English double major added, "The department has prepared me for the world in that it has demanded critical thinking and helped me to locate my personal

voice. However, as I prepare for my next step, I am discovering that I do not qualify for many political science or international relations master programs because I have not taken micro and macroeconomics, a staple requirement for D.C. programs. Had the department required or suggested the economics courses, I would have more options as I push forward with my education."

In spite of the program's limited selection of courses, it is apparent that each professor is determined to assist students in moving forward.

"This semester, Dr. Goings and Dr. Casillas asked their classes which history and political science courses they needed to take in the spring, and all of the courses that I needed to graduate on time were on the schedule when registration time came around. The department is currently in the process of interviewing prospective faculty members, and these new teachers are going to have a big task on their shoulders in revitalizing the program. As long as the department receives adequate funding in the future, I think our school's proximity to the state capitol offers a unique opportunity for a thriving political science department," said Jankovic.

With the department's future in mind, inviting more diverse staff members is an idea that cannot be ignored.

"A woman, perhaps even a woman of color, would be a great addition, offering new perspective and energy to the male-dominated department," Tawachi added.

Despite the lack of faculty, both Jankovic and Tawachi claim to have the support of current faculty members through their transparency and accommodation for each student.

"I feel like I have received an excellent education here; the history and political science teachers are all incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about teaching. I hope that prospective political science majors will not be deterred from attending Saint Martin's due to the department's current state of disarray," Jankovic added.

As faculty and administrators work to hire new faculty in the political science and history department, students are staying hopeful about the department's chances for future success.

## Engineering students' registration woes

**Travis Munday**  
*Staff Writer*

Spring registration for engineering majors, in some cases, has bottlenecked, and student frustration is palpable. Online classes are a great way to finish up General Education (GE) courses, but preference given to military students attending the Joint Base Lewis-McCord (JBLM) extended campus has impeded a few engineering students from meeting graduation requirements.

"While I understand that the online courses are good for JBLM soldiers, they are not exclusive to military students and should not be looked upon as military only courses," said Nathan Morgan, an engineering major, in an e-mail exchange.

The Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Aaron Coby, Ph.D., advocated a preventive approach to this problem via e-mail, saying, "The best way to address this issue is through attentive advising and proactive planning by the student with his/her advisor. All the General Education requirements have multiple options every semester, so there is usually a way to coordinate major courses with the university core courses."

Morgan commented that students tend to save their GE classes until their senior year due to the immersive nature of the program.

"Since engineers have a full load (18 credits for all 3 years usually) until their senior year, many upper classmen can't do a lot of their general education till the last two semesters."

This scheduling difficulty, Morgan contends, is the crux of the registration conflict, adding that, "There's no talk between the English and Philosophy departments with engineering times (regarding) when a class should be created."

Problems registering for online GE classes are compounded by what appear to be communication gaps within the engineering department itself.

"This senior year spring semester scheduling has been more difficult and chaotic than ever," said fellow engineering major Krista Stabler in an e-mail exchange.

"Necessary engineering classes have overlapped with one another giving very limited options to choose from. Myself and others have had trouble even ensuring we have the correct classes to graduate."

"There is an added challenge for students working outside of their time as students," continued Coby, citing a major hurdle for effective student registration.

"Many of the requests I receive state work schedules rather than class conflicts as the impetus for the request. This is difficult to navigate since the university's main objective is providing an education."

However, sometimes the line between work and school is blurred.

"The majority of engineering students in their last year are working full time internships and/or master courses and don't have the time to sit in an ART class," Morgan contested.

"I technically had to enroll at the McChord campus and then take an online class through that, and I had to get my advisor to sign off on that, so it was kind of a pain," said Chris Moffett, a junior in the engineering program.

"The junior year is really structured. You basically have to take almost all the classes at the same time and the next semester's classes all have requirements for the previous semester, so you really don't get any electives until your senior year."

## Questioning professional tuition fees

**Brittany Blake**  
*Staff Writer*

During the 2010-2011 academic school year, the Saint Martin's administration deemed three fields of study strictly "professional programs": business, engineering and nursing. As of this 2015-2016 academic school year, computer science has been added to this list.

Whether or not students in these fields -both at the undergraduate and graduate level, where applicable- are aware of it, they are expected to pay an additional "professional tuition fee" on top of ever-increasing tuition costs in order to support these programs. As it stands, fees are currently \$60 per credit hour for all programs and apply to both full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students, with the exception of active military students.

Sixty dollars initially does not sound very intimidating, but it can add up to a substantial amount of money for students over a four-year period. The professional tuition fee for a typical three-credit class is \$180 (on top of the cost of tuition).

Excluding general core requirements, how many classes on average are required for these programs? Looking at the most updated 2015-2016 academic catalog on the Saint Martin's website, students can expect to pay:

School of Business:

- Accounting: 72 cred=\$4,320
- Business Administration: 57-66 (depending on concentration)=\$3,420-\$3,960

School of Engineering:

- Civil: 63-64 cred=\$3,780-\$3,840
- Mechanical=64 cred=\$3,840
- Nursing: 27 cred=\$1,620
- Computer Science (not including concentration): 54-56 cred=\$3,240-\$3,360

What exactly do these professional

tuition fees cover? According to Vice President of Finance Susan Heltsley, the professional tuition fees were implemented in order to help offset the cost to run these professional programs. Heltsley notes that the surcharge is split between the general operating fund and the individual programs with about 40 percent going to the general fund and 60 percent to the specific program.

She went on to explain that "each semester, the surcharge is allocated between the general operating fund and the individual programs based upon the number of credit hours... the general operating fund is capped at \$250,000. We estimate the surcharges will raise about \$665,000 this year. The remaining \$415,000 is split between the individual programs and are in a separate fund."

The current split for each program is roughly 50-50 for business and nursing, 58-42 for engineering and 100 percent for computer science, a continually growing field.

Besides supporting the relatively high costs for running these technical programs, a major portion of these fees also funds accreditation costs and faculty salaries, allowing SMU to attract top faculty candidates.

While other members of the administration - such as Debbie Long, assistant dean of student financial services - claim that the original intent was "to provide as much support as possible to best serve our students in these courses," it remains questionable and part of a long standing debate as to whose best interests are being supported - the students or costly professional faculty. In other words, does paying faculty members at the student's expense really contribute to a higher quality education?



# CHEW on this: Saint Martin's 2015 Gala

**Delaney Wheeler**  
Staff Writer



Deveney Dela Cruz speaks at the Gala.

On Nov. 7, Saint Martin's University held the 10th annual Gala, which featured celebrity chefs from the cast of ABC's Emmy Award-winning show "The CHEW." The celebrity chefs included Mario Batali, Michael Symon, Carla Hall and Clinton Kelly. They brought enthusiasm, humor and expert culinary skills to the Gala in an effort to raise money for student scholarships.

Over the course of the evening, \$1.6 million was raised in support of student scholarships from a crowd of more than 740 guests. The Gala also featured approximately 200 members of Saint Martin's staff, faculty and students serving as volunteers, performing various tasks to make sure that the evening ran smoothly.

Genevieve Chan, vice president of marketing and communications, said of the Gala, "It's an event that's fun and uplifting, and it's really a night of entertainment. But the heart of the event is the student story to show our donors and friends of the community how important access to higher education is and specifically how Saint Martin's is a wonderful place to receive that education."

Senior business major Deveney Dela Cruz shared her story of how she came to SMU, how the university fostered her own success and how thankful she is for the staff, faculty and most importantly the

donors for giving her this opportunity.

"Your faith and generosity provide opportunities for so many students like me – past, present and future – to become the engaged, compassionate leaders this world needs us to be. You have made such a huge difference in my life," said Dela Cruz.

Her words motivated donors to see the direct effect they and their contributions have on the students of SMU and provided insight into the lives of students across the world who have also received scholarships and are better and more successful people because of these funds.

When asked about her favorite part of the evening, Chan stated, "We followed more closely to the format of the TV show, 'The CHEW,' and featured more music and breaks between food demonstrations. This change in format broke the formality and gave an opportunity for more interaction between students and donors."

Chan also discussed the donors from the evening, saying, "We draw from a variety of donors. There's definitely a mix of local businesses that are excited that there's a local university to support here, such as Capitol City Press. There's also the Cronk Family Foundation and Forma Construction, which is a local construction company that actually helped with Cebula Hall. There are some really key partners that have been a part of other university initiatives, but there are also totally new people, too, like Washington State Employees Credit Union (WSECU) that shares our mission for education."

Cecelia Loveless, vice president of institutional advancement, said "The Gala is successful- number one, because of the student

engagement in the event. Also, Ann Adams, director of career development, deserves to be called out for all that she does to pull those students together."

Loveless went on to emphasize that the efforts of all areas on campus contribute to the success of this event.

"Efforts from all aspects of our operation from custodial, Bon Ap  tit, event services, institutional advancement, and this is also very Board-driven. Our Board of Trustees is the key to how this came to be, and everything is done through volunteerism," said Loveless.

Chan also discussed how the surrounding community plays a role in the Gala's success.

"We have a wonderfully giving community here in Thurston County. It may not be as showy as Seattle or King County, but there are a lot of local businesses and local non-profits here that have come to realize that we have something special at Saint Martin's, and they want to be a part of that."

Because of these local donors and sponsors, as well as commitment from the entire university to make the event successful, the Gala has broken records with the money raised, and this year's success has introduced questions regarding how Saint Martin's is going to make the event even better next year.

"We want to have students more at the forefront of the event. We want to show even more than their presence as volunteers. We want to show other students' stories, maybe in the form of a booklet. For those people who are visiting, we want them to see the variety of student stories and see the kinds of students that they're affecting with their contributions," Chan disclosed.

Explaining the plan for next year, Chan said, "We want the format to be closer to our mission and talk a little more about how we

have a really diverse student body in terms of international students, and we also are trying to encourage more students to study abroad. Next year's Gala will include Andrew Zimmern from "Bizarre Foods" and will also feature Ligia Karazawa from S  o Paulo, Brazil. We are hoping that this will spark interest and also speak to our relationship with Brazil, both in terms of bringing students here and of also sending students there."

The money collected contributes to the cost of the Gala every year, and the rest of the money is allocated to scholarship funds.

"Our costs are so much lower than other non-profits would have to spend because of our volunteers, sponsors and the many Board members who open doors for in-kind contributions to make this all possible. We are far below the cost per dollar it would take other non-profits to pull off an event of this magnitude," Loveless stated.

While the \$1.6 million total has been announced, the amount going directly toward scholarships has not been released.

"We are hopeful that all of these in-kind donations will keep continuing so that operating costs are really kept to a minimum and that we can help make it the most successful return as possible," said Chan.

In her final remarks, Loveless said, "We are seeing success in all aspects of fundraising as a result of this Gala because it has really gotten peoples attention."



Carla Hall and Mario Batali

## A new class inducted

**Mariam Mahamah**  
Staff Writer

The Society of Fellows exists to acknowledge and encourage academic excellence in the Saint Martin's University community. The purpose of the Society of Fellows Colloquium, which took place on Nov. 10, was to induct the new class of fellows into the Society. Each member was presented with a certificate of membership and a medallion, which they are to wear during their graduation ceremonies.

At the Colloquium, Richard Langill, Ph.D., called up the new class of fellows, assisted by David Price, Ph.D., and mentioned their achievements both academically and non-academically. Most of the members of the new class of fellows had been on the dean's list at least once at Saint Martin's and at other colleges, if they transferred. To become a

member of the Society, one has to achieve enough academic greatness to garner the attention of the university and, if approved by the higher members, they are invited to join.

The senior fellow, Langill, is a professor of political science and history at SMU and graduated from California State University, Long Beach, with an undergraduate degree in political science, receiving his master's degree from the same university. He worked with the Peace Corps for two years and then went on to get his Ph.D. in international studies at American University. Langill began working at SMU in 1985 and was the vice president for academic affairs. In 1998, he decided to begin teaching as a full-time professor in history and political science.

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## The Peace Corps at SMU

**Sabrina White**  
Staff Writer

As a part of International Education Week, the Office of International Programs and Development (OIPD) sponsored an event in which a Peace Corps representative visited Saint Martin's. Erin Erickson, a representative from Seattle, offered insight into the Peace Corps, their mission and her own personal experiences while volunteering in Moldova.

The Peace Corps is a government organization created in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy as a way to improve relationships between America and other countries during the height of the Cold War. The mission of the Peace Corps is to promote peace and friendship worldwide, as well as providing service to places such as Third World countries. The Peace Corps operates in areas where they have been invited to come by governments or communities. They focus on education, health, HIV and AIDS awareness, youth development, community economic development, environment and agriculture. They assist countries on nearly every continent.

The organization currently has over 8,000 volunteers, and over 210,000 Americans have volunteered since 1961. The Peace Corps is sponsored by the government, and the expenses of volunteering are covered through tax revenue. Volunteers can choose their own projects, and as of recently, can choose location. Each volunteer completes three months

of training and does a 24 month stay in their designated country or community.

There are many benefits to being a Peace Corps volunteer. They are given a living stipend, full medical and dental coverage, time to vacation while abroad, assistance with student loans and unique opportunities for graduate school. Some volunteers are able to earn master's degrees while volunteering, and many are able to further their education while abroad. The total cultural immersion offers opportunities for volunteers to learn a new language, educate themselves about a different culture or religion and get a better sense of the world around them. Volunteers also have opportunities to work for the federal government and earn financial assistance for graduate programs in the United States.

Many volunteers live with host families while they are abroad, though some choose to live alone in apartments during their time volunteering. Volunteers are paid a salary equivalent to what an average member of the community makes, in order to increase immersion and to discover what it is like to live as a member of that community.

Service is the biggest part of what the Peace Corps does. They go to

*Photo retrieved from creativecommons.org*



places that are often very impoverished and help to make the community stronger. The Peace Corps provides opportunities of growth for both the community and the individual.

Health and awareness is the second largest area in which volunteers can work. They also coordinate with the local government and community to provide educational programs on issues such as nutrition, communicable diseases, sanitation, water treatment and maternal and child services. Often, they help plan and organize with local health clinics to better educate and provide services to the community. The Peace Corps focuses on helping to communicate messages for improving the local health care practices and bring in doctors from the U.S. to teach at universities and improve medical understanding through the Peace Corps Response program.

The Peace Corps Response program offers shorter volunteer sessions and often responds to disasters like typhoons (such as those in the Philippines), hurricanes and other natural disasters. They are sent abroad for a few months to a year to volunteer and rebuild after disasters and help communities get back on their feet. The response programs are only open to returning

volunteers or those with 10 or more years of experience in fields like medicine, development and engineering, among others. This program offers critical aid to communities and countries in need.

Erickson shared her Peace Corps experience in her presentation, detailing her projects and sharing the things that she felt most represented her time in Moldova. Moldova is a small European country situated between Romania and Ukraine and was part of the former Soviet Union. It is considered the poorest country in Europe.

Erickson worked in a small community in southern Moldova where she lived with a host family for the first year, building relationships and learning more about the culture and history. She focused on youth development, working with children in the country to increase positive relationships between children from differing families and political backgrounds. She was able to start a summer camp program that continues to be run today. Erickson also helped create a videography group in the local schools and has given the children tools to express themselves and expand their horizons.

To join the Peace Corps, you must be a U.S. Citizen and be willing to work anywhere in the world. The application process has been re-done and is relatively easy to navigate. You can find more information on the Peace Corps website ([peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov)) or from the local recruiting office in Seattle.

## Catholic Relief Services provides hope to refugees

**Denver Garcia**  
Staff Writer

During International Education Week, the Trautman Union Building (TUB) hosted an event entitled, "Coffee Break – International Issues – Refugee Crisis," which gave information about Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and their efforts to help Middle Eastern refugees who are arriving in Europe to escape the escalating conflicts.

CRS is a non-profit American Catholic humanitarian organization founded by Roman Catholic Bishops of the United States in 1943 to help European refugees. Today, they are active all over the world.

The talk on SMU's campus was given by Kelly Hickman, assistant director of the CRS office for the Archdiocese of Seattle. Also speaking was Lou Charest, CRS university engagement manager, who spoke over telecom from Baltimore, Md.

"Personally, I think the sheer scale of the migrant crisis, with millions of refugees spread over so many countries, fleeing such an intense level of horrific violence, with the situation so fluid each and every day makes for an especially complex humanitarian situation," Charest said.

"However, because of CRS' size and reach, our existing local church partnerships, our core competency in emergency response and the generosity of donors all have enabled



Student representatives of Catholic Relief Services

us to scale up a significant and life-saving response that is being coordinated by our Europe and Middle East regional teams, humanitarian response department and Caritas Internacionales."

For the past few years Syria has been ravaged in a civil war between the dynastic Assad regime and the countless rebels trying to overthrow it. The rebel factions vary widely in ideology, but the most powerful is the Islamic State that has laid claim to much of Syria and Iraq. Caught in the middle of this crisis are thousands of civilians, and that is the reason why so many Syrians, Iraqis, Lebanese and others are fleeing to Europe. CRS is helping migrants reach Europe safely, providing them with healthcare and education and lobbying governments to provide asylum.

Most of the refugees hope to

only stay in Europe temporarily and return to their home countries once things settle down, but that has not stopped many people from assuming the worst about the migrants. Even before the attacks in Paris, there were rumors that ISIS was slipping agents within refugee ranks, a possibility which has resulted in many people wanting to turn away refugees altogether.

Hickman and Charest spent a segment debunking some of these rumors. One common claim is that the refugees are disproportionately younger men who left their families behind, implying they are a thinly veiled Trojan horse. Charest explained that the trek from the Middle East to Europe is long and dangerous, so many men will blaze the trail first in order to determine if it is safe for their families to follow. The goal of CRS is not to

proselytize people but simply to show Christian love by helping people, regardless of their personal beliefs. Helping so many people in such a severe crisis can be very disheartening, especially when the refugees are met with intense suspicion and stigma. Despite all of the challenges, CRS members stay optimistic.

"So many things give me hope in situations like this, if you can believe that," Hickman said.

"I see hope in the international attention the plight of the refugees and the surrounding violence is receiving – this crisis is not being ignored. I see hope in the work of CRS in being with people and supporting them in concrete ways and on our behalf as U.S. Catholics. I see hope every time our office receives an inquiry from a school or parish or individual wanting to know how they can respond and help. My faith gives me hope, too. As Catholics, we are a resurrection people. We believe in a very real way that death is not the last word, and, to quote a line from one of my favorite prayers, we believe 'that hope cannot die.'"

The refugee crisis has been a major subject on campus lately, so the talk was very timely. For more information on CRS and their efforts to help the refugees, please visit [university.crs.org](http://university.crs.org) or contact SMU's CRS student representatives Sarah Moore or Eunice Yamada.

Photos courtesy of Denver Garcia



# Washington State general election results

Sabrina White  
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, Washington State held its general election in which voters were able to vote on two measures, two legislative positions, three judiciary positions and four advisory votes. The voter turnout for this election was low. Only 38.23 percent of registered voters in Washington submitted ballots, according to the office of the Secretary of State.

Two initiatives were on this election's ballot. The first was initiative 1366, which concerned state taxes and fees. This initiative would lower state sales taxes from 6.5 percent to 5.5 percent, if the legislature declined to change how taxes are approved. The sales tax will not be decreased, however, if the legislature has a two-thirds vote of approval. This would effectively make it harder to raise sales tax in Washington State. This measure was passed: 51.51 percent voted yes and 48.49 percent voted no. This was obviously a close vote, separated only by a few percentage points.

Initiative 1401 - which concerns the sale, trade and manufacturing of products from endangered species - was also on this ballot. The initiative was passed with 70.29 percent voting yes and 29.71 percent voting no.

The two legislative positions on

the ballot were for state representatives, one in WA-9 and the other in WA-30. Mary Dye, Republican, ran against Richard Latham, Republican, in the race for representative position 1 in WA- 9. Dye won by a margin of about 28 percent, obtaining a total of 63.34 percent of the votes. In district 30, Teri Hickel, Republican, ran against Carol Gregory, Democrat for representative position 2. This race was much closer than the one in WA-9, separated by a margin of about 9 percent. Teri Hickel won the race with 54.79 percent of the votes.

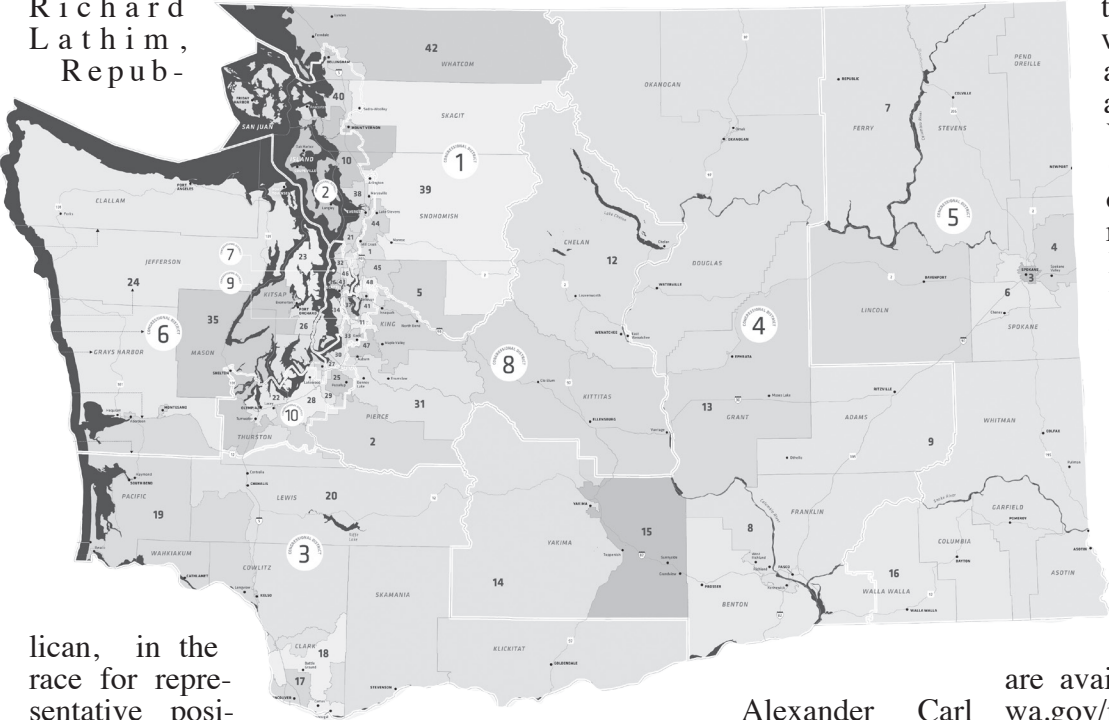
Grays Harbor, Mason and Benton/ Franklin counties held elections for

judge positions in their superior courts. Judge position 3 in Benton/ Franklin county was won by

counties included Garfield County with a 60.49 percent turnout (the largest turnout in the state), Lincoln County with a 57.42 percent turnout, San Juan County with a 56.98 percent turnout and Jefferson County with a 54.36 percent turnout. Yakima County and Benton County had the lowest turnouts, both in the 32 percent range. Most of the counties had an average turnout in the range of 30-40 percent of registered voters.

The election will be certified by each county on Nov. 24, and results are continuing to be updated as each county finishes its new tabulations. If you wish to read more on the election or find local results for government positions or measures, they

are available at <http://results.vote.wa.gov/results/current/>.



Alexander Carl Ekstrom, who ran unopposed. In Grays Harbor, Stephen E. Brown ran against Jean A. Cotton for judge position 1. Brown won the race by over a 30 percent margin, gaining 10,925 votes out of a total of 15,837. In Mason County, the race for judge position three was won by Daniel Goodell, who also ran unopposed.

Of every county in Washington State, only four counties had over a 50 percent voter turnout. The

## Map Key

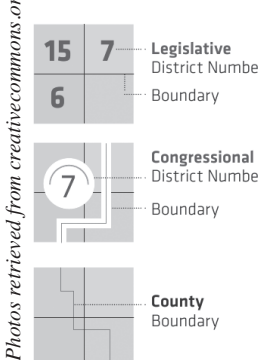


Photo above:  
Washington State  
congressional  
districts map  
Left photo:  
Map key

Photos retrieved from creativecommons.org

## Policing for Justice

Michael Overfield  
Staff Writer

On Nov. 18, a lecture titled "Policing for Justice and Ending over Incarceration" took place in Harned Hall 110 at 4 p.m. The event was open to the public and welcomed discussion and ideas about policing and incarceration. The speakers at the event were State Representative Luis Moscoso and Sarah Lippek, who works as an attorney. Starcia Ague was supposed to be one of the speakers; unfortunately she was unable to attend.

The lecture began with a presentation concerning police interaction within the community. Later, people were encouraged to share their own experiences and stories.

"I think we as a culture need to get to the more difficult concepts," said Lippek.

The lecture was interactive and welcomed the participation of those in the audience. Some of the people at the event expressed that they

thought police were too isolated from the rest of society, should not carry weapons and they practice discrimination. Police, only seemed to interact with people when they were about to give a ticket or perform an arrest. Participants claimed they often saw police officers when they were either in their patrol car or arresting someone. Some participants had started to look at the police as strangers who could arrest them rather than someone who protects citizens.

In addition to feeling like the police were strangers, the participants discussed incidents where they thought the police were being racist or sexist. To many in the room the police seemed to favor some people over others. One example of discrimination presented at the lecture involved a woman being the victim of assault. When the police arrived, they talked to the victim, then left abruptly. The participants thought the reason a police

officer might do this was because of discrimination and not trusting the victim's testimony. While this may be one

possibility, victims of assault also have the right to turn down an investigation, another possible reason for why the police left without doing anything. The police in the example may have left because the victim did not want an investigation to occur.

Police having too much power was also discussed during the lecture. Some believed that police should not be armed because it is intimidating and makes people fear them. When one party is more powerful, they often become feared.

"There is a disproportion in the power parties have," said Moscoso.

Seeing arrests in the news where weapons are involved causes some to fear law enforcement. However, if police are not armed, criminals would have no reason to fear police, either, and may commit more crimes.

One reason people fear the police

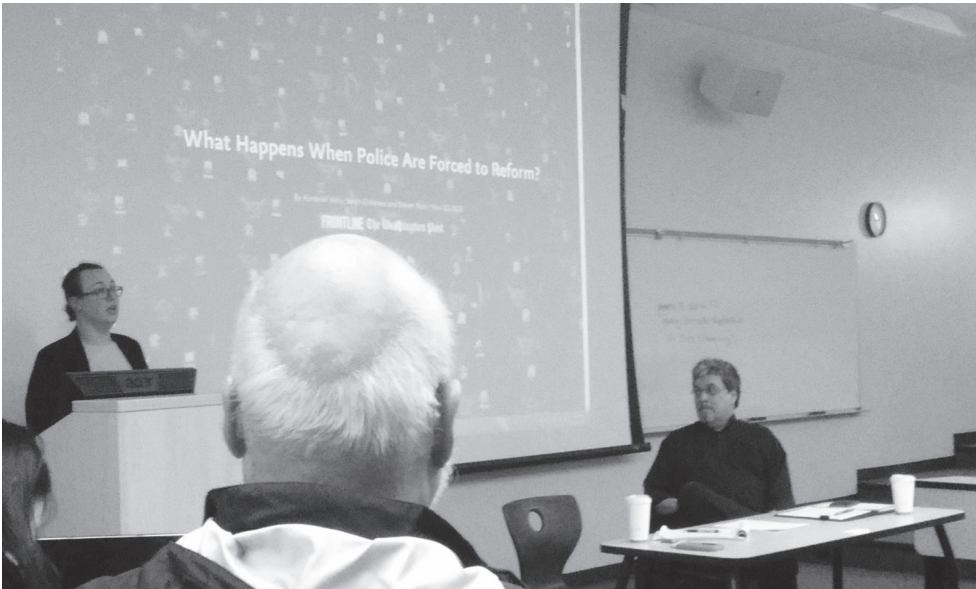
is likely due to recent stories in the national news involving the arrests of alleged criminals. "We have to be curators of our own information," said Lippek.

Law enforcement exists to prevent lawbreakers from getting away with harming others.

Moscoso noted that the police officers he worked with to try to solve issues were open to reform. Many police officers are responsive to what the public has to say.

"We're not here to beat up on the police," said Moscoso.

Overall, the lecture covered what types of problems there could be in how justice is served and how laws are enforced. The way justice is served will never be completely perfect, but finding and trying to solve problems will help make these situations better.



Leppik (standing) and Moscoso (sitting) led the lecture.

Photos courtesy of Michael Overfield



Leppik points toward the board during the lecture



# Introducing the Faith and Society series

**Brittany Blake**  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Sept. 24, members of the Saint Martin's University community gathered bright and early in the Trautman Union Building (TUB) to witness a historic event. A live stream of Pope Francis' speech to the joint session in Congress was shown at 7 a.m., as he was speaking to Congress and the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., at 10 a.m.

The Pope's speech was perceived as a powerful one. He engaged in major issues such as immigration, environmental protection and the economy, among others, and reminded the government of its social and legislative responsibility to represent its people. His presence and effort to build relations between nations through dialogue is viewed by many as refreshing in light of many recent global atrocities.

On Thursday, Nov. 12, the SMU community was able to meet up once again for an intimate discussion and reflection on the Pope's visit. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Offices of Service and Diversity and Campus Ministry, a new lecture series entitled "Faith and Society" kicked off with a discussion entitled, "Pope Francis' First Visit to the U.S."

First Visit to the U.S."

Jon Dwyer, director of campus ministry, began by announcing the purpose for the lecture series as an opportunity "to discuss global issues from faith and different perspectives, encountering one another and coming together in dialogue among common issues."

The Faith and Society Series also relates to this academic school year's focus on the Benedictine value of faith. Dwyer plans on hosting two more events for the spring semester with ideas including seminars on "sexuality and gender" or "religion and science" and possibly an exhibit of the monastery's art collection. Faith and Society will host at least one event per semester.

John Hopkins, Ph.D., director of

diversity and service initiatives, then led the discussion by showing a short clip from the opening of Pope Francis' speech on the role of the government in which he stresses that each person "of a given country has a mission, a personal and social responsibility" and that "a political society endures when it seeks...to satisfy common needs by stimulating the growth of all its members."

Hopkins facilitated the seminar by proposing questions for discussion among the audience, situated in small table groups, as well as to the panel of guest speakers, including Fr. Marion Nguyen, O.S.B.; Dr. Julia Chavez, Ph.D., J.D.; and Jeremy Newton, Ph.D. Their personal reflections on the Pope's speech in turn helped to facilitate the audience's discussion.

Three themes from the guest speakers' reflections by considering how we can engage in dialogue by utilizing "the good" (we see in others), "compassion," and "strategy."

Nguyen shared that society as a whole – people of faith included – tends to "point the finger and blame

everyone else" for the world's issues while paying too much attention to negativity, which reinforces the bad. Instead, we should strive to see the good in others, an "engagement that opens us up to God."

Chavez appreciated Pope Francis' investment in social justice as he was able to connect issues with everyone for the common good, regardless of religious or political identity. Chavez believed that the Pope's presence provided an "overwhelming aura of generosity and compassion" as his speech ultimately represented "a moment of great optimism."

Newton, coming from the angel a social scientist, was intrigued by the rhetoric and strategy of the Pope's diverse agenda, considering that "he has to speak to cultures that are not his own everywhere he goes" and perhaps "appealing to a modern Catholic who is not as evangelical" as well as to non-secular individuals.

While the Pope's speech is by no means the answer to all social issues, the Faith and Society lecture series runs with his example by engaging the Saint Martin's community in dialogue at the intersection of faith and social issues.



Pope Francis shakes President Obama's hands.

## Shine, from cover

On that night, international students did not have to try to fit into America. They were free to be themselves.

Taking off all the restrictions or considerations, they showed the real them to us. When students were sitting at the tables, they wanted people to come see their country display, not just people from Saint Martin's, but also people from the community. They wanted every American to get a chance to learn about them. In the kingdom of freedom, it is also a fair right that so many different cultures could merge together like they did on the night of the carnival.

The room was decorated with lots of colored ribbon connected to the center of the room above the stage. Different colors implied the various cultures, but the shape of the ribbons also looked like an umbrella, which is a protection for all kinds of culture, giving them the opportunity to blossom. That party was for them, for everyone, no matter where they are from. Regardless of differences, we are all a cultural family under the protection of the umbrella of peace. Of course, we should show others who we are at the same time.

Another interesting part about the carnival is that some countries' students would perform for other countries with their good friends. It was a very sweet moment when we saw it happen.

Young adult students at Saint Martin's deserve a harmonious environment to share and learn. It is very touching when we see students who could take part in another culture. It is a great experience for everyone to know more about the world. This is also the reason why students come here from the other side of the globe. We want to taste the differences and share our own.

According to President Roy Heynderickx, Ph.D., "I am impressed by the number of the countries."

This year, we had students from 18 countries at Saint Martin's. This is a part of building up the sustainable collaborations in a variety of cultures with higher education partnerships between countries. It is a great chance to support students as they work things out together to create a more interesting study environment. As an international university, we do have a very nice campus, advanced facilities and many good professors. We also need more and more amazing students from the world. They keep coming and going, which is a sad part of being an international student, but that is exactly how to keep Saint Martin's fresh with new students who have a passion to study and engage in life here.

The masters of ceremony, Deveney Dela Cruz, announced the last performance, some people seemed sad. It might have been that they did not have enough time to enjoy the happiness of the carnival. There is never enough time to learn new things. Or perhaps there is never enough time to share something we are proud of with others.

They knew this was an annual event, and it is always so important to catch every moment in our life, especially moments with good friends. These people might be in our life for a very short time, but what they bring to us lasts forever. Everyone was trying to take as many pictures as they could, even when they knew they would still see each other the next morning. They did not want to miss that moment when everyone could be together outside the classroom. Everyone with different backgrounds is a teacher to everyone else.

The carnival provided a night for various cultures to shine.

## Plays, from cover

As the play progresses, dark truths are revealed about the office that force the audience to ask questions about the way we interact with evil.

"The play deals with the idea of how we're morally myopic and the way we can ignore things that don't pertain to us personally," Chamberlain said when asked of her ideas about the importance of the play.

With the arrival of Martin Dart, played by Brian Graff, the true nature of the office becomes clear, and the full reality of the situation hits near the end of the play as the titular character must herself come to terms with the consequences.

Penn and Chamberlain were in charge of directing these plays, giving them an opportunity to experience the responsibilities and rewards of creating a production.

"Getting to work with my cast has been awesome. They come to rehearsal with enthusiasm and are ready to work. They're the best part of the experience," Chamberlain explained.

Penn mentioned that, as a double major in English and theatre arts

with ambitions to teach in both of these subjects, he hopes directing the plays will give him experience with understanding and analyzing texts that he can bring to his students in the future.

The directors also had advice for any Saint Martin's students who want to direct a play.

"Listen to other people, whether it's the producer or the actors. Other people have other perspectives, and it's good to take into account the way people beside yourself view the play. The play isn't static; it's active and living," said Chamberlain.

"Direct something you like, or else you'll get bored of it really fast. Direct something you know you'll have fun with, even when it's in the worst of times," said Penn.

Both plays kept the audience laughing and drove home their respective messages, showing the talent and accomplishments of their directors. The actors and actresses all worked together to make the characters come alive and kept the audience engaged throughout the performance.

The plays ran from Nov. 13 through Nov. 21, with six evening

performances and one matinee.



This scene shows the typical American family portrayed in WASP at the dinner table.

Photo courtesy of Maki Carson

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## Women's basketball loses heartbreaker to Warner Pacific

**Patrick Burns**  
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team dropped a matchup versus the Warner Pacific Knights by a score of 48-45, in front of the 178-person crowd at Marcus Pavilion. The Knights, who travelled from Portland, were able to overcome a large third quarter deficit and pull out the win in the fourth quarter. This was the first game for the Saints' regular season and they had a promising three quarters. However, they failed to score any points in the fourth quarter, which ended up costing them the win.

The Saints' largest lead of the game, 14 points, came in the middle of the second quarter. However, they would go into half-time leading by only eight points. After the break, the



Saints' point guard, Krista Stabler

Saints were able to push their lead to 10 after Krista Stabler converted an and-one in the middle of the third quarter. The Saints' last basket of the game would come five minutes later at the end of the third quarter as the layup by Mallory Kessler put the team up by 12 heading into the fourth.

The second half was the downfall for the Saints, who shot 32.36 percent from the field in the first half. That percentage dropped to 17.86 percent in the second half, as the Saints were only able to make five of their 28 attempts. Also, in the first half the Saints shot 36.36 percent from three point territory, but failed to knock down a shot from behind the arc in the second half, missing on all ten of their attempts.

The Saints were led by Stabler, who had 10 points and 7 rebounds. Out of her seven total rebounds, four of those came on the offensive

end. She was able to help the Saints build a solid lead over the first three quarters, but could not snap the scoring drought in the fourth quarter.

When asked about the poor fourth-quarter shooting, Stabler said, "We started losing confidence in our shots. All we need is confidence."

She went on to say, "We have some great shooters, so I think we will improve in that area."

This group of Saints are very different from last year's team that went to the GNAC Tournament.

They have lost six seniors from last year and are welcoming eight new players. Growing pains are to be expected as all the new players not only get used to playing together, but also must adjust to playing at the Division II level. Despite the loss, Stabler sees the great potential of this team.

"We lost six seniors, and gained eight new players. So our team is a lot less experienced. It takes some time getting in a flow when you have a team with so many (new) players, but we have great potential."

She went on to say that, "I believe we will finish the season in the top 6 teams in our conference and will make it to the GNAC tournament, I have no doubts about that."

Stabler and the Saints will look to improve on this start to the season in the Western Oregon Tournament, and when they start GNAC play Dec. 3, versus Concordia University (OR).

would have liked, specifically our defense in the first half. At halftime we discussed a few things we had to do in order to win," said junior guard Tyler Copp.

"Even though we didn't shoot particular great from the 3-point line, we got the stops we needed down the stretch of the game and came out with a win," said junior Cole Preston.

The second half was the big turnaround for the Saints. SMU tied up the game at 48 after Copp made a 3-pointer. Copp knew they had to stay defensive minded to stay ahead.

"We defended very well in the second half while getting crucial stops down the stretch. Our offensive ball movement was very consistent throughout the entire game," he said.

With eight seconds left Copp knocked down two crucial freethrows to put the team up by three points. Warner

## Brothers reunite through SMU basketball

**Patrick Burns**  
Staff Writer

Trey Ingram and Rojhae Colbert are two members on the men's basketball team here at Saint Martin's. Ingram is known for his ability to lead on the court and last year's success as a first-year player. Colbert, a first-year student, has serious athletic ability evidenced by the high-flying dunk that he threw down during their exhibition game against The Evergreen State College.

To the naked eye these two seem just like best friends, however, they are much more. The two are brothers and have been living together now since they were sophomores in high school. After they started living together, Colbert became a part of the Ingram family and now they are playing the game of basketball on the same college team, with the dream of playing together professionally after college. The two have a unique bond basketball and it started when they met while playing on the same travel team together back in their home state of Arizona.

While in high school, they went to different places for the first three years of school, but then joined together on the Pinnacle High School where they helped lead their



Photo courtesy of Trey Ingram

Ingram and Colbert showing their friendship.



Photo courtesy of Harrison Devine

Trey Ingram drives past the defender.

team to an appearance in the state tournament. Now the two look to help take the Saints to a GNAC Tournament, and beyond.

One big thing that Ingram noted about playing with his brother at SMU is that, "it's nice to have family in the same place and we know how to play with each other."

Both Ingram and Colbert value family and how to appreciate one another, and the two hope this sense of family will carry over to the team this season.

Both Ingram and Colbert believe that the Saints will have a top four finish in conference play for the team this season, which would be a remarkable improvement from last season, that saw the team finish tied for ninth. After wins versus Evergreen and Warner Pacific, the team is confident that they have what it takes to make the GNAC tournament at the end of the season. It will be interesting to watch how the brothers from Arizona play together and if Colbert can make an impact in his first year.

The Saints currently boast a 2-2 record this season, and their next game is on Nov. 24 when they play host to Hawai'i at Hilo at 7 p.m.

## Men's basketball defeats Warner Pacific

**Brittany Orlosky**  
Staff Writer

SMU men's basketball defeated Warner Pacific University Tuesday night with a 72-69 win. Although the men did not play strongly at the start – they trailed 42-38 at halftime – they discussed at halftime what they would do to win this game.

"We didn't get off to the start we



© Saint Martin's University 2015

Jordan Kitchen makes an athletic play.

Pacific failed to get a shot off coming out of a timeout, and the Saints eeked out a hard fought win, 72-69.

Sophomore Trey Ingram stated, "We executed well offensively all game by playing unselfish basketball, we all locked up in the second half and made sure we got stops and every single rebound giving us the chance to win the game."

First-year Rhett Baerlocher led the team with 10 points, while Ingram, sophomore Victor Ieronymides, and junior Cole Preston all added nine points, along with seven points from Copp.

After suffering a couple of difficult losses in the beginning of the season this was a big win for the men's basketball team.

"It was a great team win, and it was exciting to see a lot of different guys step up and play well", said Copp.

This was Alex Pribble's first win as a head coach.

"We were coming off of two losses so this was a great team win that



Photos courtesy of Harrison Devine

Tyler Copp drives in for a lay-in.

boosts our confidence and increases our morale going forward," Copp continued.

Many reserve players stepped up for the Saints, as 33 points came from players off the bench.

The next home game for the Saints is against the University of Hawai'i at Hilo on Nov. 24, at 7 p.m.



# Kendall Foster: Inspiration to succeed

**Brittany Orlosky**  
Staff Writer

Saint Martin's University is a campus where you walk by a majority of your classmates in a single day. However, we do not always acknowledge the stories these people have.

Kendall Foster, a sophomore on the women's basketball team, has a story that has inspired her to achieve her dreams and succeed in everything she does.

Foster went to Auburn Riverside High School with hopes of playing college basketball. She played for the AAU club Tree of Hope and by her senior summer, was getting recruited by multiple schools. She had everything she needed until she tore her ACL at a basketball showcase in front of many of the college coaches recruiting her. As a result, they stopped looking at her,

and she decided to try schools near home. That is how she found Saint Martin's.

"I decided it was a perfect fit for me to focus on school and enjoy college, even though I wasn't going to be playing basketball," said Foster.

SMU was close to home, something that was important to Foster because her mom had been battling breast cancer since 2010. Foster stayed positive about her torn ACL and knew SMU would be a great fit.

She was on an academic scholarship, and everything was going well, but she missed playing the game she loved.

"I was in the Rec 24/7, always playing pickup games I couldn't get away from playing," said Foster.

After her grandmother passed away in November of her freshman year, she decided she would talk to Tim Healy, the head women's basketball coach.

"Coach Healy told me I had to prove myself, so I worked out with the team in the spring and played with them in a summer league. By the beginning of my sophomore year, I had earned myself a scholarship to play," Foster explained.

Unfortunately, Foster's dreams of playing were put on hold once again. Two weeks into her sophomore year, Kendall found out that her mom had cancer again. This time, she was diagnosed with terminal brain and lung cancer and was only given six to 18 months to live.

Foster stated, "I had to make a decision to stay or go to college. My mom was a single mother so she was all I had. It was the two of us, always."

After talking and getting advice

from a professor, David Pratt, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy, she decided that "school will always be there, but my mom won't. I would lose myself without my mother."

This hard decision meant Foster would have to drop out of school, which also meant no basketball. Nevertheless, she had to step up to support her mom. She took on two part-time jobs and was given the opportunity to coach an AAU fifth grade girls basketball team.

"I had to take care of my mom, go grocery shopping, do daily chores, pay bills and drive a lot more. I lost a lot of my young childhood but it was worth it to grow up overnight to help my mom. I would do it all over again."

"We eventually moved to hospice care, and after seeing what social work did for her, it made me decide to dedicate and pursue a social work degree at SMU. I had alcohol abuse in my family, along with drugs, and I saw how it affected my family, so I want to help families who went through what I went through," said Foster.

Foster's mom began to need more assistance, could no longer perform daily activities.

One day, the doctor came to a conclusion.

"There was no point to continue treatment because it wasn't helping. My mom was really depressed, but we both kept our faith in God and remained strong."

Unfortunately, a few months later, Foster's mom passed away.

"It got really, really bad, but we said our goodbyes. The night before she passed, I told her she had suffered too long, and we were both at peace with this. I knew it was coming, but after it happened,



I didn't believe it. She was my best friend. I lost a part of me," she explained.

After losing her mom, Foster decided she would turn all of these negatives into positives.

"I will overcome this obstacle of losing my mom and focus on school and basketball. That's what she would have wanted. I'm going to make my family proud by playing basketball and getting my degree, along with coaching," she said.

Foster returned to SMU to resume her sophomore year of school to study social work and play basketball.

Foster's story helped strengthen her commitment to school and basketball.

"I will never forget my mom. Although it will be hard to overcome this, I will lean on God through it all," she added.



## Going the extra mile

**Brooke Rickard**  
Staff Writer

Jasper Heckman is a junior on the men's cross country and men's track and field team. A graduate of Orting High School, Heckman ran cross country for three years and track and field all four years of high school before becoming a Saint. Before his high school career, Heckman competed in track and field meets during middle school.

The men's cross country team wrapped up its 2015 season at the West Regional Championships on Nov. 7. Heckman led the way for the men with a time of 33:23.26, a full minute faster than the time he

clocked at Regionals his first year. Shaving seconds off a time is a goal for any runner, but to improve by a full minute is a remarkable achievement, one that is owed to Heckman's ability to exceed the expectations of his coach and teammates.

"I think Jasper's biggest strength is his willingness to simply put in the work," Jim Brewer said of Heckman's improvements this past season.

"This summer, he worked towards running 100 miles a week. I don't tell my athletes to do 100 miles a week, but that's something he decided to do himself. He wants to take the extra steps to do a little bit more. There aren't that many people

that are willing to put in that mileage. He has great determination and work ethic."

Although work ethic is a quality honed by an individual, Heckman also displays humility, claiming his determination to push himself this summer is something he owes to the support he has

received from his team.

"I never would have done it without my teammate Shannon Porter and our assistant, Coach Pedi, running with me almost every day. They definitely made it more fun and were able to push me on the days I wasn't feeling great. Josiah Shelman is definitely someone I look up to, too. No matter what kind of day he's having, he has something positive to say. He'll call you out when you're not doing what you're supposed to be doing, but he is also always checking up on the team to see how everyone is doing."

Heckman's value of teamwork and his dedication to making improvements is not only exemplified through his 10 kilometer race performances this past cross country season but is also expected to make his track and field career promising for this coming season.

Nathan Morgan, a senior cross country and track and field member, commented on his excitement to run the steeplechase with Heckman this coming spring.

"It takes a lot of guts. It's tough. There's always a chance of collisions and falls. It takes courage just to get out there and do it. The school record is 9:32. Jasper's off by about 13 seconds, and I'm off by 15 or

16. We're so close to the record that we're going to push each other to



Photos courtesy of Jacob Willemsen

Jasper competing in the steeple last season

get there."

The steeplechase is a 3,000 meter race with 35 barriers that are 36 inches high, seven of which are pits of water 12 feet long, 12 feet wide and two-and-a-half inches deep. Despite the rigorous course, the steeplechase is Heckman's favorite track event, and he hopes to be able to compete in it at this year's GNAC Championships.



Jasper looks forward more steeple competition.





## Dalia Pedro Trujillo Editor-in-Chief

I am a senior studying history and political science with a minor in French. Being the Editor-in-Chief is probably one of the most time consuming and challenging positions I have ever taken, but it's extremely rewarding and I get to work with an amazing group of people. One day, when I have some free time on my hands, I would like to pursue some of my hobbies and passions. I am passionate about feminism, women's right to choose, the environment, education, and immigration. Secretly, I would like to protest the protesters outside Planned Parenthood clinics and to chain myself to a tree to protest logging. My hobbies include reading, knitting, biking, running, baking and having a glass a wine as often as possible. I live in Olympia with my amazing husband, Nathan, who is a strong advocate of the environment and wants to protect our planet for future generations.

## Cassidy Ristine Section Editor

My name is Cassidy Ristine, and I am the Features section editor for *The Belltower*. I was hired on last semester as a staff writer and transitioned into an editorial role this fall. I am an English major, graduating in December with my degree and hoping to work in freelance journalism, among other things. I am from the Olympia area and enjoy living in the Pacific Northwest, although I attended college in Lookout Mountain, Georgia, before coming to Saint Martin's University. When I have spare time (which only occurs rarely), I enjoy hanging out with family and friends, running, kayaking, reading, knitting and occasionally playing the ukulele.



## Lucas Shannon Section Editor



First and foremost, I am an avid basketball fan. I had the privilege of playing on scholarship for the Saints for two years, until I decided to hang 'em up due to concussions. Today I am the team manager and am happy to be back on the bench with the team. My dream is to be a sports journalist, and my inspiration comes from Dave Zirin, the famous sports writer for *The Nation*. For those who don't know, Zirin is famous for blending sports with current social justice issues, and shows how sports can, and often do, reflect current issues afflicting our society today. As a sports fan and a political science major, this type of writing plays right into my two biggest interests, and it is my hope to one day to carry on Zirin's writing style.

## Blake Cloward Assistant Layout

Hello! My name at SMU majoring and minoring in second year on *The* currently working project with Puget four other SMU team and I wrote Energy with a new thermostat system. follow through with time, I enjoy playing Next semester (Spring 2016), I will study abroad in Japan for five months. I am overly excited to go and cannot wait for next semester to begin!



is Blake Cloward. I am a senior in Mechanical Engineering Mathematics. This is my *Belltower's* layout team. I am on an energy conservation Sound Energy and a team of mechanical engineers. My a proposal to Puget Sound innovative idea for a smart We were awarded \$10,000 to our proposal. During my free piano and guitar and hiking.

## Julie Yamamoto Adviser



Julie Yamamoto, who advises *The Belltower*, has worn many hats in many places, from her origins in Ohio, to Mississippi and South Texas, to Chicago and Japan, and Olympia. Unfortunately, she has only one head and no sense of fashion (which could explain why *The Belltower* has no fashion section). Seriously though, I am very proud of the people you see here on this page and the hard work they do for every issue of *The Belltower*. Keep reading and responding, and let us know what topics you'd like to see covered in upcoming issues.

## Lee Kaplan-Unsoeld

I am a senior sociology and cultural anthropology student, someone who likes to learn new languages, ask difficult questions and often ends up in sketchy situations. Having studied abroad in Spain, Costa Rica, and Chile, the latter two while enrolled in Saint Martin's University, I plan to spend my final semester studying abroad in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. I will continue writing for *The Belltower* while learning Portuguese, taking classes, and working



## Managing Editor

on my senior thesis abroad. Some of my favorite hobbies are cooking, playing the drums, biking and gardening. I give two thumbs down to people who exploit other people, damage Mother Nature for their own profit, or perpetuate violence and hatred against vulnerable populations. I really like to plant and look at trees. Upon graduating, I would like to bicycle around the world, working on organic farms in other countries.

## Lauren Tighe Business Manager

It's my fifth year here at Saint Martin's University and my second year as business manager for *The Belltower*. I will be graduating in December with my degree in business administration with a concentration in finance and management. I grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah but found myself in Washington and here at SMU four



years ago. I was fortunate enough to be able to play for SMU women's basketball team while here. Being a part of basketball, *The Belltower* and all aspects of SMU has been an incredible experience and growing time in my life. I plan on staying in Washington after graduation because I fell in love with it here.

## Andrew Walter Business Assistant



I am a first-year student from Fairbanks, Alaska. I am competing in both cross-country and track for SMU. I was very involved in student government and leadership during high school; I sought out positions that would let me connect with others and meet new people. These experiences led me to choose a business (marketing) major, with a minor in communications. I have always loved writing and I was excited to have my first article published in the November issue of *The Belltower*. I am only one semester into my university experience, and I am looking to offer much more to SMU and this amazing community!

## Annie Dumyahn Layout Manager

Ahoj my brethren, students, professors, faculty and staff! Lend me your ears and I shall tell you in 200 words or less a bit about myself. Originally from Illinois, my partner, cat and I got tired of the sunshine and decided to give the rainy winter weather of Washington a try. It is much nicer than snow and generally warmer. Over the last few months my stomach has mysteriously been expanding, and I believe that I am either pregnant or will simply explode from the stomach. Either way life shall be interesting.



## Shelbie Parmiter Web Manager

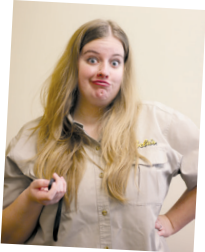


This year I was hired as the web manager for *The Belltower*. I spent the previous 18 years melting in the desert of Arizona. I major in religious studies and want to work in youth ministry. You can find me most days pounding the keys on a piano, crying over TV show character deaths, or making a fool of myself with my dance moves. I love to bake but only end up with five cookies in the end... Why is cookie dough so good? I attempt to play video games but I just get told to stand in the corner and try not to die. In the end, life is rough, life is tough, life is crazy, but life is worth it.



## Melissa Wright Photographer

Howdy! I'm this semester's co-photographer for *The Belltower*. This month I get to finally graduate with a B.A. in Religious Studies. I enjoy intellectual thoughts, arguing with my roommate, and doing special things for the people I love. When I'm not taking pictures for *The Belltower* or for fun, I'm probably providing excellent customer service at Cabela's, knitting wittle baby slippers, or procrastinating on my senior thesis. As part of my duties for *The Belltower*, I maintain a section of whiteboard entitled, "The Daily Funny" where I exhibit my dry humor. My most pinned-to Pinterest boards are about feminism, Catholicism, baby shower planning, and adorable DIY projects that I will actually attempt someday. Also, Leslie Knope is my alter ego.



## Brittany Blake Staff Writer



I hail from the city of Shoreline, WA (just north of Seattle). I am a senior-and-a-half English major graduating in December and am looking into becoming certified as an ESL instructor. I love to travel and can't wait to go on another adventure. If I'm not writing for The Belltower, working on other essays or gritting my teeth through my senior thesis, you can find me reading and editing other student's papers as a peer reader in the writing center. I practically live in the O'Grady library, but when I am able to see the light of day, I enjoy doing so by running through the trails of this beautiful campus.

## Sophia Donan Staff Writer

I am 21 and am from the beautiful state of Maryland. I moved to Washington during my high school career when my dad retired from the Army. The oldest of three kids, I have two not-so-baby brothers who are 19 and 17 years old. I have been writing for *The Belltower* since March of this year, and have enjoyed every second of it! I am a mechanical engineering major with a writing minor. There is a passion I have for travel and adventure--no matter where I go, I always learn, always grow, and always find the most beautiful people in the most unforgettable places.



## Taylor Gersch Staff Writer



I'm a new staff writer for *The Belltower*. I'm currently a junior business major at Saint Martin's. I belong to the Sigma Beta Delta Business Honors Society and am planning on completing my MBA at Saint Martin's after graduating in the fall of 2016. I play on the women's soccer team as a center defender and have been all-academic every year. I'm from Sherwood, Oregon and attended Sherwood High School where I graduated with honors. I hope to attend law school in the future where I can contribute to the community in finding justice for people. I enjoy writing and am looking forward to contributing to *The Belltower* and writing stories that pique your interest.

## Travis Munday Staff Writer

I'm a junior at Saint Martin's University. I'm a relatively new staff writer and I'm really enjoying the new challenges the position presents. I recently moved back to Olympia to attend SMU after living in Seattle for about seven years, where I worked in low-level administrative roles at Amazon and Zillow. I'm excited to be making progress toward an English degree and would like to pursue journalism as a career after graduating. In the few moments of downtime school affords, I like to draw comics, compose unfunny tweets, watch and read things of varying degrees of importance and listen to Bob Dylan.



## Cleo Pineda Staff Writer



I am a transfer student from South Puget Sound Community College where I worked as a peer mentor for first-quarter students at the school's Diversity and Equity Center. This is my second semester of studying engineering at Saint Martin's University and I currently serve as your Senator of International students on ASSMU. If I am not doing schoolwork, I spend most of my time with my family or laughing with good people. My interests include helping build inclusive communities, exploring creative outlets, drinking chai tea lattes, and daydreaming about owning a bulldog named Benzy in the future.

## Delaney Wheeler Staff Writer

Hello y'all! I am a psychology major, resident assistant, and member of a few of Saint Martin's University clubs. I am Treasurer of the Psychology Club and LGBTQA\* club, as well as an executive board member in Polyphony (the campus' acapella group) and National Residence Hall Honorary (N.R.H.H.). I love singing, reading, and watching Supernatural and the X-Files. My favorite coffee drink is a vanilla chai, my favorite ice cream flavor is peppermint, and I wish that it was socially acceptable to have sushi for every meal. I love astronomy, aliens, anything paranormal and I'm kind of a nerd.



## Brittany Orlosky Staff Writer



I am from Mill Creek, Washington. I am majoring in criminal justice and I plan on going on after SMU to attend law school. By the time I graduate I plan on having a minor in political science as well. I play on the women's soccer team here at SMU have been playing soccer my whole life. I started working for *The Belltower* this year and write for the sports section. I am also a part of the Criminal Justice Club and Athletes In Action here at SMU, a club for Christian athletes. My faith is a big part of my life. I also enjoy hiking, exploring Seattle, and traveling.

## Harrison Devine Photographer

I came to *The Belltower* through my love of photography. I have always loved taking photos, and in the last two years have really begun studying and refining my skills. Outside of photography I am a competitive cyclist, mountaineer, hiker, lover of the outdoors, and amateur tailor.



## Roslyn Buff Staff Writer



I am an English major and Communications minor. I am a junior here at Saint Martin's University. Before college I attended Black Hills High School in Tumwater, Washington. I have lived in Washington all my life, and have great pride in my Pacific Northwest home! After college I hope to get a job as an editor for either a magazine or a newspaper, and am still undecided as to whether or not I should take the next big step into the unknown waters of grad school. In my spare time I enjoy re-watching episodes of "Friends" obsessively and spending too much time on the internet.

## Patrick Burns Staff Writer

I am originally from Southern California, but I have lived in Eagle, Idaho for the last 5 years. I have two older brothers and two older sisters and they have graduated college before me. I am majoring in Business Administration with concentrations in Accounting and Marketing with a minor in Communication Studies. My fiancée also goes to Saint Martin's and is currently a junior pursuing a degree in education. I plan on going on after SMU and getting a master's degree in accounting and hopefully finding a good job after that. I started at *The Belltower* in October and I write for the sports section. My hobbies are watching baseball and playing FIFA. Also, I have two cats.



## Denver Garcia Staff Writer



I am a senior history major with a minor in writing. This is my second year working as a staff writer for *The Belltower*. I enjoy being a staff writer because it gives me the opportunity to investigate many things going on around campus and I get to interview all kinds of people I may have never met otherwise. When I'm not in classes or working on articles I'm usually talking with friends, watching TV in the Parsons Lobby or going on walks. I like to go on walks all over campus, so don't be afraid to say hello if you see me!

## Mariam Mahamah Staff Writer

Hello readers, I'm a sophomore, majoring in psychology and minoring in French and Writing. I am avid reader and a huge fan of food. I mostly either read or eat during my free time, or do both at the same time, because why not? I love listening to music and hardly go anywhere without my headphones. I am always eager to learn more of anything, which is why I love school but not the homework that comes with it. Most of all, I enjoy writing because I think it is absolutely magical how we can create something from nothing with just our brains and a pen.



## Dimin Wen Staff Writer



As an international student, also an English major, I feel so lucky to be here. Well, luck can't always be with me, that's why I am here. My dramatic life in the USA makes me laugh and cry out loud all the time. It never stops, and I believe there is no ending for it. Sometimes I ask myself, "Am I oriental to be here?" Maybe. Is that a good or bad thing? No. It is just who I am. Tragic comedy is always going on. I can't say all of them are taken care of. However, I tried and will keep trying. For example, as the only Cantonese student in my major, or maybe on campus, classes are not super easy for me in my third language, English. However, I gotta do what I gotta do. Passion is the motivation. Uproarious life is needed. I love tiny Wendy.

## Brooke Rickard Staff Writer



I'm a senior from Ewa Beach, Hawai'i majoring in psychology and minoring in writing. I'm currently applying to Ph.D. programs in hopes of being accepted to a cognitive psychology program next fall to study brain trauma and memory. I hope to eventually advance from brain trauma to study memory in individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Along with being a staff writer for *The Belltower*, I also work in the Office of Admissions as a student ambassador and the Learning and Writing Center as a peer reader, and serve as the food chair for our Hui 'O Hawai'i's annual lu'au. I'm also apart of our women's basketball team.

## Sabrina White Staff Writer

I love writing! I am a freshman with sophomore standing majoring in biology and minoring in history. I have lived in Washington my entire life, and I love adventuring in the Pacific Northwest. I enjoy reading, painting, music, playing trumpet, hanging out with my friends and exploring new places. I love cars (especially American muscle and European cars), drive a Volkswagen named Jenna. I am an avid gamer. I play games such as Fallout 3 and 4, Skyrim, Counterstrike, and Grand Theft Auto. I am hoping to go to medical school to become a cardio-thoracic surgeon, or specialize in muscle and tissue disorders. I joined *The Belltower* to expand my writing style and to have a new experience while in college.



## Michael Overfield Staff Writer



I am studying mechanical engineering and plan to use the degree to get a job after graduation. I decided to study engineering because I am interested in how gadgets work. Prior to attending college, I moved only three times and lived on the Kitsap peninsula for nearly 13 years. In my free time, one activity I enjoys is learning how to manipulate my computer through the use of Java. After making a few simple programs in Java, I have learned a few tricks including making the computer utilize one hundred percent of its CPU while accomplishing nothing. Even though I live on campus, I often visit home, which is just over an hour away.

Full bios can be read online at [belltowersmu.org](http://belltowersmu.org)

All photos courtesy of Melissa Wright



# Microaggressions 101

**Delaney Wheeler**  
*Staff Writer*

Microaggressions can happen anywhere and can be identified in statements such as, “But where are you really from?” or “What are you?” The presenters argued that although many may hear these phrases regularly without realizing that they are subtly offensive, they are unacceptable because of the prejudice behind them and should not be tolerated on any campus.

On Nov. 16, five students from PSY320 and SOC320 (Social Psychology) presented on the topic of microaggressions and how they affect campus culture. Christian Yoro, Janisa San Agustin, Samantha Mararac, Mikel Smith and Gerardo Rodriguez all spoke on the topic of microaggressions and brought John Hopkins, associate dean of students and director of diversity and service initiatives, to discuss how this concept relates to the Saint Martin’s campus.

Yoro, junior, discussed the importance of distinguishing between racism and discrimination when trying to become aware of how people treat others of various races and ethnicities.

San Agustin, senior, explained that there are three different types of microaggression, clarifying them as micro-assault, micro-insult and micro-invalidation.

San Agustin and the other presenters described micro-assaults as “conscious and intentional discriminatory action.”

The presenters gave examples of micro-assaults including making statements toward someone of a



Christian Yoro and Mikel Smith presenting

certain race based on a stereotype. The students then explained that a micro-insult is any “verbal or non-verbal communication conveying rudeness” and usually takes place when someone assumes a negative stereotype is true and acts differently toward the person of that race.

The third type of microaggression is micro-invalidation, which refers to “an act of subtly negating the thoughts, feelings and experience of persons of color.”

The students also presented data from a 2011-2012 study done on a college campus in Illinois that looked at the presence of microaggressions in classrooms. The study found that 51 percent of the students who completed the surveys had experienced stereotypes toward them in their classes. These and other discriminatory actions toward minority students can make them feel alienated.

Hopkins discussed the focus groups that Saint Martin’s looked at in 2010 in order to learn about the experiences that students of color and international students have had on this campus. He explained the uncomfortable situation of being the only minority in a class and being asked what they feel as a member

of that group as though they need to speak for the entire race or ethnicity.

Hanna Hernandez, junior, said, “I definitely never thought about microaggression occurring on campus or even really knew what it meant. Before, it wasn’t in my awareness, but now that it is, I can already think of multiple instances where I have seen microaggression happen and even directed towards me. Especially with the current racial events going on around the world, it would be very important for people to learn about this topic and be consciously aware of it.”

Hernandez spoke about taking the knowledge she learned at this event and going out into the world with the ability to identify how often and in how many different settings these microaggressions surface. The presenters called on the audience to be more aware of these instances and, when faced with an intolerable situation, to speak up.

Rodriguez, a junior and one of the speakers, said, “It was exciting and reassuring to hear some of the student’s responses and that the event did, in fact, help them become more aware about this issue, which was the goal of the project.”

Rodriguez explained that the objectives of the forum were to have people reflect on the discussion questions, including: “To what extent are microaggressions a problem?” and “What strategies would you implement to reduce microaggressions on campus?”

Rodriguez also left the audience with the comment, “I hope that we

continue to raise awareness about microaggressions through these and other types of events and activities.”

Radric Marapao, a sophomore, also stated, “I felt like the topic of microaggression is really important, and it is something that a lot of people really need to understand or at least be familiar with. Honestly, we are surrounded with microaggression everywhere and almost all the time. I feel like specific groups of people should definitely be exposed to these topics because they may unconsciously be the problem.”

Marapao’s comment brings up the fact that sometimes these statements are still made simply because the individual is not aware that their statements are categorized as microaggressions.

Tiffany Artime, assistant professor of psychology, said, “Joined by John Hopkins, the students from PSY320/SOC320 shared their passion for addressing the problem of microaggressions at SMU. Although often a difficult and uncomfortable discussion, the students were candid about their experiences of microaggressions in an effort to create an open dialogue.”



Gerardo Rodriguez, one of the presenters

Photos courtesy of Delaney Wheeler

# Yoga for the stressed

**Taylor Gersch**  
*Staff Writer*

Students now have the chance to leave their studies behind and enter a zone of clarity. Currently offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m., yoga instructor Rebecca Traber’s class gives students the opportunity to not only stretch their muscles and relax their bodies but also to ease their minds.

Traber’s background began with the American Council on exercise, where her main interest was yoga. She began teaching yoga at Saint Martin’s in 2007 in the Burton addition.

“It’s like the one class where people walk away and the majority of the time feel really good. Most people walk away with smiles,

and I’m instrumental in helping that happen,” said Traber.

Many students appeared to be enjoying themselves when I joined the class on Nov. 17. Having never once participated in yoga, I was surprised by how quickly a beginner like myself caught on. Don’t get me wrong; certain positions were not easy to perform, but I learned quickly how to relax my body and mind. For a pretty hectic week, it was the one moment in which I felt at ease and lighter than air itself. Yoga is a great way to release stress and has been found to lead people into a healthier and happier lifestyle.

Junior Taylor Kirk is taking yoga currently and decided to participate in something new.

“It’s very relaxing. It relaxes my body and allows me to focus on something other than my studies. It has inspired me to live a healthier lifestyle as it makes me think about your flexibility and your mental fitness. I get to reflect,” Kirk explained.

When asked if yoga has encouraged him to have a healthier lifestyle, senior Amari

Blanton said, “Yes, it makes me realize how inflexible and unhealthy I am, so it makes me want to be healthier person so I’m not as sore.”

If you’re a beginner, do not be afraid to try it out. There are many different levels of yoga.

First-year Alyssa Kageler said she decided to take yoga “to get more flexible and relax and to try something new for my freshman year.”

So if you’ve never tried yoga and have a desire to begin, take a leap and sign up for the yoga class.

“I wouldn’t advise someone to take a higher level yoga class as a beginner. Rather come to the ‘open to all’ classes first or take introduction to yoga if you are a beginner. Anyone can take yoga,” said Traber.

Yoga will be offered next semester, but the time is still to be determined.



Students pose in half-moon

Photos courtesy of Christine Towey



A yoga student in bridge pose

© Saint Martin’s University 2015



A student in a resting pose



## How are you celebrating Thanksgiving?

**Taylor Gersch**  
Staff Writer

As classes are slowly coming to an end, finals are creeping up on the calendars and the holiday season is approaching, students finally get to celebrate Thanksgiving. With such a diverse community at Saint Martin's, students celebrate Thanksgiving in their own special ways. The following students were happy to share their Thanksgiving traditions with *The Belltower*.



### Patrick O'Connell

**Belltower:** What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

**O'Connell:** It means spending time with my family. I go home to Colorado and enjoy seeing all my family and friends.

**B:** How do you celebrate Thanksgiving?

**O:** We start cooking in the morning, ski during the day and have an early dinner.

**B:** What is your favorite part of Thanksgiving?

**O:** The food, especially the stuffing!

**B:** What is your favorite food item from Thanksgiving dinner?

**O:** Dessert. My sister makes the best pumpkin cheesecake.

**B:** Will you watch the Thanksgiving football game?

**O:** We will watch the Packers

game.

**B:** Will you watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade?

**O:** Yeah we will leave it on but not actually watch it.

**B:** What are your most memorable traditions?

**O:** None. We've mixed it up every year. We used to go to my grandparents' when we were younger, and now we just spend it at our house.

### Kerrigan Ah Mook Sang

**Belltower:** What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

**Ah Mook Sang:** When family and friends come together and celebrate. Being able to reconnect over food and fun games.

**B:** How do you celebrate Thanksgiving?

**A:** Typically, we wake up early and have to prep all the food for all the friends we have come over to our house. We watch TV as we go, football and the parade. I love the parade so much! My mom would wake me up to watch it when I was younger. I love watching all of the different Broadway performances and the marching bands. I like the Buzz Lightyear and Snoopy floats the best. After eating, we do some early Black Friday shopping, and I typically do my Christmas shopping.

**B:** What is your favorite part of Thanksgiving?

**A:** I love decorating the house and making it look festive.

**B:** What is your favorite food item from Thanksgiving dinner?

**A:** Stuffing and gravy.

**B:** What are your most memorable traditions?

**A:** Back at home, I would wake up and go to my grandparents' for brunch and then go to my other grandparents' for lunch and then back to my other grandparents' for dinner. We house-hopped, and I loved seeing all of my family.



### Victor Ieronymides



**Belltower:** Do you celebrate Thanksgiving?

**Ieronymides:** No, we do not celebrate Thanksgiving in Greece.

**B:** Have you celebrated it in the U.S.?

**I:** Yes, three times. We all gathered around the table, there was a lot of

mashed potatoes and turkey and we said a prayer before we ate. I did this in high school at Oak Hill Academy in Virginia.

**B:** What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

**I:** It means missing school and being able to spend time with my family. It's a good break off from school.

**B:** How are you going to celebrate Thanksgiving this year?

**I:** Probably with my basketball family. I'm looking forward to the mashed potatoes and the gravy. But the mashed potatoes in Greece are more whipped and softer. But I like both kinds.

**B:** What is your favorite part of Thanksgiving?

**I:** I also enjoy gathering around

### Steffany Woods



**Belltower:** What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

**Woods:** Thanksgiving is a time when all my family and cousins can

gather at my grandparents' house and eat food and catch up on life. We enjoy being around each other and sharing what's going on in our lives.

**B:** How do you celebrate Thanksgiving?

**W:** My whole family sits around the dinner table, and we each explain what we are thankful for, we pray and eat. For the next four to five hours, we just talk and

enjoy each other's company.

**B:** What is your favorite food item from Thanksgiving dinner?

**W:** My favorite foods from

with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season.

**B:** Will you watch the Thanksgiving football game?

**I:** Oh, there are football games? If everyone is watching it, I will watch it, too.

**B:** Will you watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade?

**I:** Honestly, no. We have practice on Thanksgiving, and I get to be around my brothers.

**B:** What are your most memorable traditions?

**I:** They set up Thanksgiving in my high school, and I was so confused on what Thanksgiving was, but we got the day off of school, and I was so excited. In Greece, we have other heroic and independence days that we celebrate similar to Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving dinner are the stuffing, ham, macaroni and cheese and cranberry sauce. I've noticed that in my culture, macaroni and cheese is a main staple in our Thanksgiving meal that many other families do not incorporate. My grandma makes homemade mac n' cheese, and it's the best thing I've ever eaten.

**B:** Will you watch the Thanksgiving football games?

**W:** (Chuckle) No, the boys do; the girls just talk.

**B:** What are your most memorable traditions?

**W:** At every Thanksgiving, we make big announcements about our lives. Usually the announcements are about new babies, weddings and celebrations.

### Lisa Zelasko

**Belltower:** What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

**Zelasko:** I love it because the whole family gets together, and I get to see people I haven't seen in a while.

**B:** How do you celebrate Thanksgiving?

**Z:** Usually, at our house, everyone in our family brings a different dish so it's potluck style. This year, we are going to Whistler so I have to miss school beforehand. We usually go between Thanksgiving and winter break, and it's usually our ski trip of the year, but this year, our trip lands over Thanksgiving break!

**B:** What is your favorite part of Thanksgiving?

**Z:** Honestly, I just like seeing my

family. It's definitely a plus.

**B:** What is your favorite food item from Thanksgiving dinner?

**Z:** Mashed potatoes!

**B:** Will you watch the Thanksgiving football game?

**Z:** Yes, definitely with my dad. We will probably root for the Bears.

**B:** What are your most memorable traditions?

**Z:** So, when I was six years old, we usually get turkey for Thanksgiving, and my entire family got food poisoning. So ever since then, instead of turkey, we have ham.





# May the curve be ever in your favor: Surviving finals

**Sophia Donan**  
Staff Writer

Whether you are a seasoned veteran of college finals, or a first timer, we can all use some help getting through the end of the semester. In many courses, the final exam is worth a significant part of one's grade. That is why it is important to master skills that help us organize our time and knowledge leading up to finals week.

Through my participation in study courses, as well as trial and error, I have comprised a list of 12 tips that have helped me and others take final exams without breaking a sweat.

Final exam time is so much more than just studying material. The reality is that you should be reviewing material every night in the semester so there are no surprises come final's week. Staying focused involves being physically, mentally and emotionally engaged in being a great student. Sleep, music, meditation and exercise will all be your best tools when preparing.

**Sleep.** That's not optional. All-night study sessions are rarely successful. You can't cram over 15 weeks of material into a 15-hour session. So, skip the headache and get some rest. Make sure to get at least five hours of sleep a night. Naps are always good for the soul, too.

**Disconnect from distraction.** Before heading to bed, turn your phone off or place it on airplane mode – this allows you to get a full night's rest without wanting to pick up your phone every time there's

a notification. This also goes for study time. Put the phone away, close out any social media tabs on the computer and completely focus on reviewing material.

**It's really just a review.** I touched on the subject in the first two tips, but finals should not be a surprise to anyone. If you have reviewed material throughout the semester, participated in class, and kept up with homework, then you should have seen everything on the final at least once.

**Review journal.** Throughout the semester keep a journal of important vocabulary, dates, equations and other key terms. As you add to this journal, read through all the terms and quiz yourself. It's simple and a great way to keep on top of the material being covered.

**Highlighting.** Too often I glance over at a fellow classmate and see that their page is covered in yellow. A wise professor once told me that no more than 20 percent of your page should be highlighted. Highlight or underline only what is most important, and write notes next to the highlighted portions explaining why they are significant. When you go to review, you will then be able to focus on a few key points rather than entire pages.

**Schedule.** Time is of the essence, so having a plan is not only suggested but necessary. Personally, I like using a desk calendar—it allows me to see all my commitments and plans in one place. Start at least three weeks out and schedule both your work and class time, then pencil in the times you will be studying

in those three weeks. Commit to one subject per study session, and schedule in breaks for yourself as well.

**Find release.** Constantly staring down at your desk reviewing is no way to stay focused. We all need a way to release energy, thoughts, and let's face it, stress. Working out is a great way to release these components and stay healthy through it all. Personally, I've found yoga to be a great stress release during finals and the semester. Taking a yoga break allows me to unwind, then come back to the problems refreshed and motivated. Yoga is offered FREE to students every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the Rec.

**Weak subjects.** Study these subjects first. Look over old exams (even for your stronger subjects) and highlight material that you typically struggle with the most. By focusing on your hardest classes first and starting early, you're allowing yourself more time in case you do need that extra week to review a particular class.

**Brain food.** Just because you are in college doesn't give you an excuse to eat poorly, not to mention that eating poorly (or not eating at all) can lead to lack of focus and, in some cases, serious problems. Make sure to pack some snacks if studying outside of your home. Personally, I try to pack at least one fruit and vegetable (let's say apple wedges and cucumber slices), then the rest is built based off how long I plan on being gone.

**Water! And lots of it!** SMU now has wonderful water bottle stations.

Make these another tool you use, and make an effort to refill your water bottle at least twice a day. Drinking water keeps us hydrated and can help prevent the otherwise inevitable migraine.

**To study group or not to study group.** Study groups can be your best tool or your worst enemy. If a group starts out well and after an hour, you can honestly say to yourself you understand material better, then congratulations, you found a great group. However, it just takes one off-focus person to make a study group devolve into a small party. Suddenly you're watching YouTube videos and ordering pizza and trying to convince yourself it was a success. If you know a group may not be focused, try to study alone or with just one friend to better manage your time.

**Exam day.** At this point, you must accept that you have learned all you could and tried your best the past few weeks. Make sure that you had a full night of rest the night before, and eat a healthy breakfast. Take your time during the exam, start with what you know best first, then think through the problems you may still be struggling with. If you're not sure of an answer, make an educated guess – partial credit is better than none at all. Finally, relax, take a deep breath, because another semester is on the books.

## International students and alumni are the same

**Dimin Wen**  
Staff Writer

International students are similar to alumni from Saint Martin's University.

Spanning from the end of September until the end of November, the Phonathon is happening on campus, supervised by the Office of Institutional Advancement.

This event is not just about asking for money for The Fund of SMU. It is also a connection between our school and all the students who have studied at SMU before.

There are three international students who work on the team. Their first language is not English. In order to be responsible in doing their job, speaking and understanding English in a skillful manner is required. However, the international students have a complete disadvantage in this area.

Because they are not native English speakers, their accents create problems sometimes. Or they do not understand what people are talking about when the person on the other side of the phone is using some slang or telling American jokes. At those moments, it is not the problem of language but dealing with the confusion through their personality. The Phonathon is also a great chance for international students to experience real life in America outside of school.

SMU has many international students who graduate every year. They have left the university, but their names will be in

the record as alumni.

During the Phonathon, the team calls these student graduates. Most of the time, when asked if they had a good time at Saint Martin's, they say yes without hesitation. They learned and they enjoyed their school days. Some of them feel surprised when they are called. The fact is that they are no different from common American students. They studied for the same courses, they lived in the same places and they shared the same experiences.

How would you feel being in another country if people treated you the same as their people? That must be amazing. Such treatment would mean they were not and never would be an outsider because they spent time and effort somewhere. Everyone will miss their alma mater because they spent a part of their youth in it, and that is part of a meaningful life.

As international students, we do not want to be outsiders but "real" students. We are not just visitors.

I ran into an alumni one day who said, "Saint Martin might not be the best, but it means a lot to me. I met my best friend there. I miss my professors. I miss the days I lived on campus. But feel so good you guys called. That means I am not gone for good to Saint Martin's, right?"

What kind of question is that? I believe people are not just animals. We feel and we maintain our emotions. In our life, there are too many people we pass by; however, there must be a reason for people who

were originally separated by the Pacific Ocean to meet on this beautiful, small campus.

Life is too precious and too short to be wasted. Especially in meeting people who are not from one's own country, this kind of experience should be treasured in school.

For current international students, the Phonathon is a good way to challenge ourselves, not just about how well we can speak in English, but also how confident we are in handling situations. That is how we learn more about English, not just as a language but as a tool to communicate and learn about people.

Writing for *The Belltower*, joining any kind of activities in ASSMU or just talking a little bit more in class would help a lot for an international student to be a "real" student at SMU.

After we leave here, we can be proud of ourselves as students here forever, and we can be meaningful alumni to SMU. When we get a call from the Phonathon in the future, we might have a chance to share our feelings about our experiences. We can smile and be happy thinking about all the memories. Because we are the same.

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# Storyteller's Luncheon brings students together

**Roslyn Buff**  
Staff Writer

On Nov. 19, Saint Martin's University organized the Storyteller's Luncheon event, which was an opportunity for students to meet and talk about their experiences studying abroad in various parts of the world. The event was sponsored by both the Office of Study Abroad and also the Office of International Programs and Development (OIPD) and was held in the TUB from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The Storyteller's Luncheon gave both study abroad students and international students the chance to talk about and share their experiences of culture with each other. The event was based on a previous gathering organized by Campus Life called the Storyteller's Lounge. Dean Martin, SMU's community relations and service-learning coordinator, talked about the inspiration for the Storyteller's Luncheon.

"Storyteller's Lounge was an

event in which students have an open forum to share stories, poems or thoughts around a certain theme. During past International Education Weeks (IEW), the Storyteller's Lounge would center around international travels or stories from other cultures/countries. However, we realized we have so many awesome students from all over the world right here at Saint Martin's with their first-hand life stories that should be shared," said Martin.

He went on to describe the evolution of the event. He mentioned that last year's Storyteller's Luncheon focused specifically on international students and their experiences. This year, however, the event morphed once again.

"This year, we wanted to add a study abroad element, so we decided to combine students who studied abroad with an international student from the same country," Martin added.

The setup of the event featured six tables that were each designated for a specific country. Students from

the countries and students who had studied abroad in those countries could then communicate about their experiences and share their stories.

South Korea, Brazil, Northern Ireland, Japan, China, Saudi Arabia and Germany were the countries represented at the event. Students were able to grab a slice or two of pizza, along with some soda, and find a seat at a table with other people to begin listening and sharing.

Taylor Kirk, a junior from Northern Ireland, shared some of his feelings about studying abroad. Kirk explained that his favorite thing about his experience in America has been the campus environment of Saint Martin's. He mentioned the tranquil atmosphere of the campus and the wooded areas as aspects he greatly enjoyed. Kirk went on to explain that studying abroad in America has taught him the value of being independent.

"You have to wake up on time for your classes because you're the one responsible. At home, my mom would just wake me up if I was

late," Kirk described.

He emphasized the way in which his experience allowed him to mature and also mentioned that it gave him the opportunity to see more options for his future, as well. Whereas, before studying abroad, he had planned to work in his home country, now he is considering applying for dual citizenship and returning to America in the future.

Brenda Burns, the study abroad coordinator at Saint Martin's, was also present at the event. Burns provided some insight as to how she felt the event would help inspire other students to study abroad.

"By talking and by opening up conversations, students who are hesitant about studying abroad can learn what a positive experience it was for their peers and will be able to connect with others," she said.

The Storyteller's Luncheon was part of International Education Week at Saint Martin's. The IEW ran from Nov. 16 to Nov. 20.

## Students enjoy off-campus Yule Ball

**Sophia Donan**  
Staff Writer

September."

Many new faces were at the event, but there were also some returning students in attendance. Dressed in long ball gowns, button-up shirts and even a Hogwarts robe, students contributed significantly to an enchanted evening. Students smiled as many jumped in to join the cha-cha slide. With stress in the air nearing the end of the semester, people attending the Yule Ball could not help but dance and



A group of students pose for a photo.

The frigid evening of Nov. 20 helped turn the South Sound Manor in Tumwater — where the Yule ball was held — into a winter wonderland. Campus Life offered a charter bus to take students to and from the ball. It left the Trautman Union Building (TUB) earlier that evening transporting many of the attendees. Others opted to carpool to the dance in an effort ride with their friends.

As students entered, they saw the Manor decorated similarly to the Great Hall from the Harry Potter series with white decor draped from the ceiling and floating candles outlining the main room. Guests were greeted by Campus Life staff who gave them raffle tickets for prizes. Then, they proceeded to a photo booth where they could commemorate the event. The event planners included a coat closet for all the winter jackets, a table of refreshments and a live DJ who took musical requests in advance.

Over 100 students gathered for the yearly winter ball, which was hosted off campus for the first time.

"We started looking during the summer for a location," explained Ben Lopez, interim assistant director of Campus Life.

"The manor was perfect for the event, and we began planning in

unwind.

Heather Berg, the dance coordinator for campus life, commented on the event, saying, "It turned out wonderfully: the decorations, the people, everything."

When asked if Campus Life is planning any more off campus events, she said this would be the last one of the year, but homecoming in the spring will be an even bigger event in the Worthington. A surprise end-of-school-year event is also in the works.



Students bedecked in winter finery

## Vigils Retreat promotes spiritual seeking over dogma

**Travis Munday**  
Staff Writer

Saint Martin's inaugural Vigils Retreat took place on Nov. 13 and 14 at the Gwinwood Retreat Center in Lacey. According to the Rule of Saint Benedict, a prayer service or vigil is prescribed to be kept at night in a steadfast search for God. The retreat lasted 24 hours, from 4 p.m. Friday to 4 p.m. Saturday, emphasizing an openness to exploring spirituality in the context of a community. The retreat did not bar other faith traditions or those without any faith from attending the event.

"This is my fourth year at Saint Martin's, and I was concerned when I got here about how to keep students involved in campus ministry. I didn't want campus ministry to be something that you grow out of," said Jon Dwyer, director of campus ministry and the organizer of the retreat.

"You come in after high school and you get really involved in it if you're a Catholic or you're interested in things that are spiritual, and then as you get older and work through the college system, you kind of grow away from that."

The Vigils Retreat was created due to a lack of attendees at the preexisting upperclassmen retreat titled Obsculta. Obsculta is the integral first word of the Rule of Saint Benedict, encouraging its devotees with the subsequent unfurling of its first line, "Listen, my child, with the ear of your heart to the words of the Master." But Dwyer notes that devotion to this seemed to be dwindling among upperclassmen.

"I had to pull the fifth Obsculta retreat off the table because there weren't enough students signed up for it."

Simply put, "If you don't have a critical mass of students to share the experience and build community, it's not going to be effective."

Scheduling the Obsculta retreat

for upperclassmen hinges on interest among students. Dwyer note that underclassmen have not had the opportunity to foster this type of spiritual seeking in a school community. These factors led to the development of a retreat for underclassmen.

"The freshman retreat needed to be different from the Obsculta retreat. It's not going to take the place of Obsculta; it's going to be something else, and it's for students transitioning into university life as opposed to transitioning out."

The reason the Vigil Retreat occurs at night seems twofold.

Dwyer acknowledged the history of the vigil itself first, saying, "A vigil is a watch. It's remaining awake and alert at nighttime, looking for something or watching for something. In the middle ages, there would be someone keeping the watch — keeping a vigil all night. And this idea comes into religious life in many different ways."

He went on to bring the intensity of this alertness to its present-day application.

"You know there's something that happens at nighttime that's different than what happens in the daytime. And I think that in our own, human, lived experiences that the conversations we have at nighttime tend to be more profound and cut closer to the bone than the kind of conversations that we have at two o'clock in the afternoon."

"It's not only for Catholics and it's not only for people who have their faith all figured out," Dwyer continued, "but it's for people that are kind of open to whatever spiritual experience is possible in whatever ways we do experience this. I'm convinced that there's no way to understand or to experience God's love for us aside from our love for each other."



# Monk's Column: Gifts

**Boniface V. Lazzari, O.S.B.**  
Guest Writer

A few years ago, my biochemist sister-in-law asked me what I thought of one of the popular Harry Potter novels. My sister-in-law is a good scientist, but I am not. As a result, our conversations most often center on such common interests as art, food and books. She was surprised when I confessed to her that I had not read, even one of J.K. Rowling's novels and promptly lent me volume one. Since that time, I have read the entire series and even have some of the volumes in Spanish translation.

One of the least loveable of Rowling's protagonists is perhaps Dudley Dursley, Harry's overly indulged cousin. Dudley inhabits a Dudley-centered world and is unable to believe that his parents have marked his birthday with only 36 gifts, down two from the previous year. He protests loudly at the injustice of it all.

Later this week, America will celebrate its annual day of Thanksgiving. Some of us will give thanks in our places of worship or around the family table as we share a meal with family and friends; others will watch a parade or a football game, and others will volunteer time at a center which prepares and serves meals to the disadvantaged. The festive, light-centered celebrations that brighten the darkness of our winters follow closely on our day of formal thanks.

Of the celebrations that bring relief to the darkest days of winter, I know best those of my Christian tradition, with the most universally known being Christmas. Many years ago, I was blessed to spend a Christmas holiday at Baden-Württemberg in southwestern Germany, with my German-speaking cousins. When I arrived by train from Madrid, their home reflected the advent season with a large advent wreath hanging in the bay window of the living room-cum-library. On Christmas

Eve day, the wreaths vanished and were replaced by the crèche and a live fir tree trimmed with apples, walnuts, paper and wax ornaments and beeswax candles. The scent of fir and of the burning beeswax are among my many memories of that Christmas Eve night.

Gift-giving is a part of the traditions of the Christmas season. It may take place on Christmas Eve, on Christmas itself or in early January on the feast of the Three Kings. We exchanged some few small gifts that Christmas Eve in Germany. Mostly, we delighted in the warmth of the evening, psychological and physical, in the company, and in the beauty of decorations and the music coming from the radio.

Dudley Dursley would not have enjoyed that Christmas Eve. Being a very Dudley-centered person, there probably was much he did not enjoy or perhaps even understand at all. It is easy in the pre-Christmas whirl of festive gatherings, decorations, "Black Friday" gift buying, a rush to send out Christmas cards, to forget that there may be a more meaningful way to mark the celebration. The poet L.E. Sissman, to whom I was introduced by a friend perhaps a decade ago, has it right, in my way of thinking. He writes that while he welcomes a few small gifts at Christmas, what he most hopes for is some quiet time talking with friends – "real" talk, not "small" talk, seeing how friendship has worn over the past year.

He concludes, "...we all, severally and collectively, realize, sheltered and fire-warmed somewhere in a snowy, hostile landscape, that the only gift that matters is a spark of brave forthcomingness, and unshuttering of spirit, from another living person, so soon, like us, to disappear."

For me, the gift of friendship from another "living person" wins out, hands down, over Dudley's coveted 36 gifts.

# OIPD and the Polyphony Club sponsor karaoke night

**Michael Overfield**  
Staff Writer

On Nov. 17, the Trautman Union building (TUB) was filled with the sound of students singing along to popular songs from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The event was originally planned by the Office of International Programs and Development. During a meeting, the polyphony group volunteered to run the event and help plan it.

Alyssa Melder, a senior who was involved in setting up the event, described the purpose of karaoke night.

"When you karaoke, it's not so much to showcase your talent; we're not looking for the best, we're just looking for people to sing, to enjoy themselves," she said.

No beautiful singing was expected at the event. Karaoke night was a time for friends to mingle and sing along to familiar songs. Students who attended the karaoke night sang along with friends while enjoying the provided snacks, which included vegetables, chocolate covered pretzels and two flavors of juice. Songs chosen by students ranged from "I See Fire" by Ed Sheeran to

"All I want for Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey.

Singing in groups was popular among the participants. However, a few songs were sung in a duet or a solo. Participants sang along to their favorite songs as lyrics appeared on the screen. Some participants enjoyed singing along to their favorite song so much that they danced around the room. When karaoke night finally drew to a close,

students reluctantly left the TUB to continue their night time routine elsewhere.



Photos courtesy of Michael Overfield

Josh Hunt sings his heart out.



Josh Hunt and Rachel Steadman sing a duet.

# Faith Series: Fun facts about an atheist

**Tyler Langford**  
Guest Writer

*Editor's note: This is the first in a series in which The Belltower will be highlighting faith (and non-faith) beliefs of Saint Martin's students, faculty, staff, monks and community members. If you would like to write about your faith and what that means to you, please email belltower@stmartin.edu with your submission.*

For those of you who would like to know more about atheism and atheists, here are a few fun facts about one of those godless heathens (me) that you might find interesting. I think that I was supposed to write an article about what the core value of faith means to me, but that was boring and difficult, so I decided to go this route instead. I hope you enjoy it.

1. First things first: If you're a religious person, I don't hate you and don't want to destroy your way of life. In fact, there are a lot of religious people in my

life whom I love very much. You could end up being one of them! Lucky you.

- I don't care whether someone says "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays," contrary to what Fox News will tell you. I do, however, think that Bill O'Reilly is an ass.
- A traumatic event didn't cause my affliction with atheism. It has been with me since birth.
- You may wonder why I chose to come to a Catholic school, being an atheist and all. The answer; it was close to my family and the people seemed nice. Plus, they told me I didn't have to be Catholic.
- You may be concerned that I'm going to burn in hell and feel like voicing that concern to me on a bus or airplane. I'd rather you didn't.
- I'm not particularly bothered that the word "God" is in the Pledge of Allegiance, although I'd rather it wasn't.
- I'm actually pretty nice to

people that come to the door asking me to join their church.

- If you spray me with Holy Water, I won't hiss or melt or turn into a werewolf. I'll probably just tell you to stop spraying me with water.
- I actually think that the Bible should be taught in public high school literature courses. As literature, mind you.
- (You'll only get this one if you've seen the movie "God Is Not Dead") If I were lying on a sidewalk after being hit by a car, I would much prefer that you call for help or administer first aid as opposed to trying to convert me, and I would probably tell you so.
- I don't have a dark void in my soul as a result of not having religion in my life. I'm actually pretty happy.
- It consoles me to think that when I die, I'll probably just die. It'll be like before I was born, only I'll be dead, and I'm cool with that. Since my

time is limited, I'm going to try to enjoy it and do as much good as I can for my fellow creatures, simply because it is the right thing to do and not to impress anyone.

- I think that Jesus was a pretty cool guy and that more people should do what he said. I don't know much about Muhammed or Buddha or Confucius, but I'd imagine that they had some pretty good ideas, too.
- If I'm ever in a foxhole, I'll still be an atheist.
- I'm not mad at God. It would be dumb to be mad at something that I don't believe in. If I did believe in God, though, I might very well be angry with him/her/it. In the words of Stephen Fry, "Bone cancer in children? What's that about?" Also, he or she or it certainly could have put a little more effort into making me taller and better at sports.



# A secure campus is a closed one

**Nathan Morgan**  
Guest Writer

You are quietly studying at night in Harned Hall, preparing a clever thesis for a research paper, or scribbling away equations for an upcoming final. You are enjoying the convenient, warm and quiet environment of the downstairs lobby as you feverishly study away. The hour is late, it is past 11 p.m. Campus Safety suddenly interrupts your academic Zen, and tells you that the building is closed and that you must leave. Since it is past 11 p.m. at Saint Martin's the only building on campus that you can study in now is the Trautman Union Building (TUB). Repulsed by the most distracting place on campus, for studying at least, you leave campus frustrated, homework incomplete and pissed about the new policy.

Many commuter and traditional students alike have been there, up late in one of the many study nooks

in Harned or computer lab in Cebula. The hour is late, but as an undergraduate, some nights you have to pull past 11 p.m. to make that deadline. Given Campus Safety's new policy of 11 p.m. closure, those days might be gone for good.

Josiah Shelman, a senior business major, said, "I study in Harned because it's warm! The internet is really spotty at home, so I like to come on campus and finish my homework at night. When the building closes at 11 p.m. it totally throws a wrench in completing my homework on time."

Students all over campus are feeling the same way about early closing hours. Doesn't the idea of academic scholarship as an undergraduate mean we will have late nights studying and researching? We sometimes have to stay up late, and campus is often the best place to study. Many students, commuters particularly, do not have the resources or locations to meet other students late at night. Campus becomes a location

to focus on academics, meet with other students and peer groups, and to discuss and share knowledge. This is many times done late at night, when students have time.

Josh Hunt, a commuter student studying computer science, described his run-in with the new policy.

"I've been kicked out of Harned twice by the 11 o'clock rule. I was working on homework late, a safety officer showed up, told me the closing time had changed to 11 p.m., and that I had to head out. I had about 3 problems left on my statistics homework, and papers everywhere. The TUB is a building filled with pool tables, ping pong tables, arcade games and, in short, an army of things to distract you from studying. As a result, I left campus," he said.

Where are students are supposed to do homework at late hours? Who the heck would study in the TUB late at night? It's creepy and distracting in there.

Buildings like the library, Harned and Cebula were funded with money from people such as Thomas B. O'Grady, Father Cebula, and Joe Harned. They donated their money with the intention that these buildings would be used to their full capacity by the students here at Saint Martin's.

I call on the Administration of SMU to make this ridiculous new policy go away. Whoever implemented this policy never bothered to ask for student input, or even bring it up whether or not it was okay with the Associated Students of Saint Martin's University (ASSMU).

It may be easier for Campus Safety to enforce safety on campus if the doors are locked, students are kicked out, and buildings are closed at sooner hours in the night. But our late night safety in one building should not be looked upon as priority over the freedom to study as a student. Thomas Jefferson would agree, end this BS.

## Mockery of women's studies justifies women's studies

**Denver Garcia**  
Staff Writer

An unfortunate misconception about liberal arts degrees is that graduates can only get jobs teaching in those specific disciplines. While that is certainly not true, it does often lead to people not pursuing such majors and instead pursuing more specialized degrees in fields such as business or anything in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM). One of the most joked about liberal arts focuses is women's studies, which is often seen as a relic of the women's liberation movement of the 1960s. Women's studies classes are in fact a product of second-wave feminism and started with the intention of balancing out the androcentric academic culture of the era, an action which is still very necessary.

At Saint Martin's University, we offer a women's studies minor requiring students to take classes in a variety of disciplines which focus on women. The most visible of these classes is Gender and Pop Culture (SOC 395), which has students produce a magazine (or "zine") which is distributed throughout campus. Zines are self-published magazines which are produced by a photocopier and have limited circulation. Each year, the zine is distributed, providing student-written articles on pop culture portrayals of women supplemented with colorful

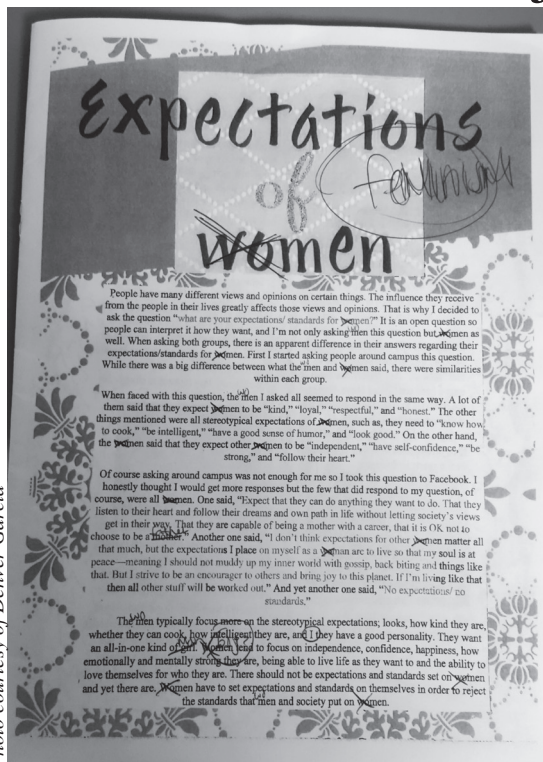


Photo courtesy of Denver Garcia

**Vandalized zine**

pictures.

"I've been teaching this class since 2009. The zine has been part of the class since before I started teaching it; it goes back to the beginning of the program about twenty years ago," said Adjunct Professor of Sociology Keri Olsen.

This year, one copy of the zine was defaced with a pen and left in the third floor of Old Main with the vandalized page exposed. The section chosen was dedicated to an essay titled, "Expectations of Women," which discusses male privilege and the double standards women

have to face. Every use of the word "women" had the first two letters crossed out and "wo" was added to all uses of "men," creating a page filled with "women" and "women." Fortunately that was the extent of the damages, and the intent of the anonymous vandal is unknown.

"When I discovered that copy I was amazed that somebody would take the time to do that, then leave it in a place where people would see. We'll never know the intentions, but it has always amazed me how some men feel so threatened by women's studies classes and believe that feminism is 'reverse sexism.' Or maybe it was poking fun at those types," said Professor of English and Chair of the English Department Jeff Birkenstein.

"All they did was change the pronouns, but it does speak to the issue on campus and in society that women's voices, women's opinions and women's thoughts somehow always need to include men's input and that it's begging for parody. The article was something that a student wrote and felt strongly about and wanted to be put out there, and that's something that shouldn't be corrected," Olsen added.

As a history major, I can attest that many history classes are dominated by emphasis on men. Part of this is due to the fact that most

civilizations were patriarchal, and historically, most literate people were male, but for any time period, we still know enough about women during that era in order to obtain a more balanced look at gender. The scope of women's studies is vast, spanning history, sociology, philosophy, political science, communications and even more surprising areas like math. With the only common denominator being women as a topic of study, the possibilities for classes and application are practically boundless.

I find it very shocking that anybody would take the time to deface the efforts of their fellow students, regardless of the nature of the content. However, the fact that this happened to a women's studies zine is not surprising. Despite all the strides forward which society has made toward gender equality and general egalitarianism, sexism and misogyny remain rampant in many areas. Offering women's studies as a major or minor is one way to help make colleges more egalitarian, which benefits everybody. Thankfully, the vandalism was not particularly vile and not something that would cause any emotional distress, but it was distasteful and very unwelcome.

If you have not been able to look at the zine, keep an eye out for it. It's always good to support student-run efforts.

## 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.

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.



## How can we focus on school when innocent people are dying?

**Taylor Gersch**  
Staff Writer

Late on Friday, Nov. 13, six locations were attacked in Paris, where five suspect attackers killed 128 people and some 300 people were wounded. I received this news from my CNN app right before one of my business classes on Friday. The news brought tears to my eyes. I could not possibly think about entering my class, what was the point? Innocent people in a country known as the city of love were just brutally murdered, many were still being held hostage, and the lives of many others were affected around the world.

I thought to myself, why I should even go to class. Life is so short, is this 50 minute session going to allow me to make a difference in the world. Will my sales or marketing class teach me how to save others, to stop these brutal events from happening, create peace between all people? Right now, it is hard to tell, but I would have to say no. Right now, in almost every class that I have taken here at Saint Martin's has been taught out of a textbook. Did my sales or marketing textbook save the world? Did it teach multiple people how to make the world a better place? No and no.

All of my textbooks are just an accumulation of outdated policies, ideas and objectives. My classes and textbooks lack any real world application, we learn concepts and are tested on them. After that, we forget everything we crammed into our brains for our 50 minute test

and carry on with the world we live in. Did we change a life, make the world a better place, or accomplish world peace? Again, no.

So how was I able to go to class when I just found out one of the most valued cities in the world was just attacked? I have great respect and faith in my faculty, that they will teach me how to make a positive impact on the world. Though right now it is hard to see that what I am being taught on a daily basis is going to change the world for the better or save someone's life. But I have faith in my professors that they will lead me to do just that, change the world.

If you are a faculty member reading this right now and are questioning whether or not your lesson plan will teach your students how to make the world a better place, I challenge you to change your lesson plan. Cancel the useless group project, or the quiz on one simple chapter, but rather show us what is going on in the world and how to incorporate the lessons we learned in class to solve the problem.

We have been called the laziest generation yet, but I challenge you to challenge us. We have yet to be truly challenged. Make us go out into the community and change the life of an individual, I will promise you that this will have a larger impact in the lives of Saint Martin's Students than any textbook or workbook will in a million years. Let us start helping people now so events like the attack on Paris become an outdated trend.

## My experience as chair of the Multicultural Carnival

**Cleo Pineda**  
Staff Writer

From Nov. 16 to Nov. 20. Saint Martin's University's Office of International Programs and Development (OIPD) led our school in International Education Week. This joint effort between the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education serves as an example of our nation's effort to emphasize the importance of global engagement on campuses all over America. During this week-long venture, there were a variety of events that aimed to highlight international education and exchange worldwide. The Multicultural Carnival was among this array of programs.

This was Saint Martin's University's second annual Multicultural Carnival, where students and clubs get the chance to showcase their culture through games, food, and entertainment.

As chair of this event, I was able to get a glimpse of how much work goes into ensuring that we get well-acquainted with study abroad programs as well as the idea of appreciating each and every individual that make up our Saint Martin's community. Along with Breezie O'Neill, Assistant Director of OIPD, I also got the chance to work with ASSMU Senator of Clubs, Morgan Erickson to promote this event to our fellow students.

We began planning for the Multicultural Carnival back in August, and have been holding weekly meetings together ever since.

"We have students from all over the world at SMU that represent many rich and interesting cultures.

Exploring those cultures and traditions as a community is a great way to learn about one another," Erickson stated.

As students, it is important to recognize our roles in strengthening our relationships with one another. Through the use of our different backgrounds, we can draw upon the widest possible range of views and thus, forming a solid unit with each other here on campus.

With the stress of finals week approaching, people found relevance in dedicating time for an event such as the carnival, which promotes the idea of an open and supportive community.

There are some groups such as the International Club who had over ten people in their performance group. Students used this event as a chance to work together while solidifying individuality.

As the world is becoming increasingly globalized, it is important to encourage diversity.

Beginning with on-campus multicultural events, students will be better prepared for different kinds of interaction from various types of people in the real world. That is why taking part in International Education Week and its positive effects on Study Abroad programs and International education as a whole is something that Saint Martin's University prioritizes.

Reflecting the Benedictine value of Community Living – let all things be common to all – through our interaction with one another, we get a chance to learn more about ourselves, building on to who we are.

## Letter to the Editor

*Editor's note: This email was sent to the David Olwell, dean of engineering, by the custodial staff.*

I am sure you are aware of the editorial in *The Belltower* on Sustainability at Saint Martin's. I thought I would share what I have been observing over the last 14 days since I posted those signs and the last 10 days since the articles publication.

In the first few days after posting the signs I saw a small reduction in food waste in the recycling bins in classrooms and hallways, but no reduction in the Cad Lab. Since the publication of Nathan Morgan's OP-ED piece I have seen an overall reduction in non-recyclables of over 80% and an Amazing reduction in the CAD Lab of over 95%!

This Friday mornings pick-up had only a few candy wrappers and some gum. This gives me great hope

that we can improve our recycling program through education and motivation. I am very proud of our engineering Students and Faculty, it is often easy to overlook the small steps to sustainability and hard to change behavior quickly.

I would like to be able to get to the point that engineering is an example and leader at SMU for doing sustainability right. If these levels of participation continue we might be able to look into increasing our recycling program in other ways.

Anne Guttman  
Mid-Campus Custodial Lead



### UPCOMING OUTDOOR TRIPS WITH SAINTS ADVENTURES

Sign up in the Charneski Recreation Center

Stay tuned for more information

**November 14, 2015 – Nisqually Wildlife Hike**

**December 6, 2015 – Snow Tubing at The Summit at Snoqualmie**

**January 16, 2016 – Ski trip to The Summit at Snoqualmie**

**January 23, 2016 – Moonlight Snowshoe at Gold creek**

**February 6, 2016 – Snowshoe and Sledding on Mount Rainier**

**February 13, 2016 – Ski trip to The Summit at Snoqualmie**

**March 19, 2016 – Paintball Excursion**

**April 16, 2016 – Raft the Wenatchee River**

**May 21 – Ape Caves Hike**



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**We are looking for spring semester Layout Assistants**

Interested amigos should email [belltower@stmartin.edu](mailto:belltower@stmartin.edu)

\*Tacos not included



# There are more things to pray for than just Paris

**Lee Kaplan-Unsoeld**  
Managing Editor

This Friday, Nov. 13, took a very scary turn for the worse for residents of Paris when a series of deadly attacks killed over 100 people. The French president, Francois Hollande, swiftly commented on the issue, attributing the attacks to the Islamic State militant group and vowing to hold them responsible for the acts of violence.

If you want to pray for Paris, that is certainly reasonable. While I don't pray myself, the people of Paris are certainly in my thoughts, and I yearn for a day when people do not have to fear deadly attacks while out on a Friday night with their friends. At the same time, I think that it is reprehensible that Paris should see such a large outpouring of support after the attacks while other equally tragic events go all but unmentioned in the Western media.

Let's not parse words here. This huge outpouring of support is not solely because France is one of the United States' closest allies or because this event was tragic to

the people of France. It is because we, as a society, are ethnocentric. We see France and we can relate. People in France are mostly white, they have a "developed" economy and many Americans have learned to love France, whether through vacationing there or just by its romanticized status in pop culture.

We do not care about the tragic events in Paris because they were particularly tragic. In fact, a similar bombing occurred the day before in Beirut, Lebanon. Over 40 people died in that attack, and many more would have died were it not for Adel Termos, who tackled another suicide bomber running toward a crowded mosque, sacrificing himself but saving hundreds in the process.

I have yet to see a Lebanese flag superimposed on a friend's Facebook profile picture. I have yet to see a Lebanese flag being waved at football games and getting national coverage. I have yet to see a flag from Yemen or Pakistan being waived for all the innocent victims of the deadly drone bombings that the United States carries

out there. Why are we so obsessed with France? And what does this all mean?

It means war. Hollande has already declared it. He and U.S. President Barack Obama are going to intensify their military operations in Syria, and the overwhelming fear of the Islamic State will be used to impose harsh security measures on French citizens. I'm afraid that, without realizing it, each person who has changed their Facebook profile picture to include the French flag has tacitly endorsed this impending wave of violence justified by the attacks in Paris.

Hollande has already announced that climate demonstrations planned for the impending Global Climate Summit in Paris will no longer be allowed to take place because of "security concerns."

Hollande has also vowed to increase French security forces and intensify its bombing of Islamic State militants in Syria.

I'm sorry, but Mr. Hollande, can you seriously believe that the best way to respond to violence is with more violence? Will bringing more

hate and bloodshed against the people who brought hate and bloodshed down upon Paris do anything but perpetuate this negative cycle? The U.S. is bombing innocent people in Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan and other areas of the Middle East by way of drones, and residents of the Middle East are, understandably, angered by these actions.

Each time Western forces kill an innocent person in the Middle East – and this happens on an astoundingly regular basis – the Islamic State has an easier job of recruiting young people who hate the West and everything it stands for.

Let us stand up and reject hate and violence. Let us stand up and say that the death of innocent people in Beirut and other places is just as important as the death of people in France.

Let us stand up and ask, "What got us to this place, and what will bring us to a more peaceful place?"

Chances are, if you think about this deeply you will conclude as I have that intensifying the bombing of Syria will not bring us to a more peaceful place.

*"The Shallot" is a new section that will be featured in The Belltower. "The Shallot" will feature work intended to examine issues through a satirical lens regarding Saint Martin's University, The Belltower, the surrounding community and anything and everything in between. The views expressed by "The Shallot" do not necessarily reflect those of The Belltower, Saint Martin's University or other concerned parties. Please direct all compliments or complaints in the form of a letter to the editor. These letters can be submitted by email to belltower@stmartin.edu.*



## New SMU homepage confuses Viking god with St. Benedict

**Johnny Kanaka**  
Guest Writer

This semester Saint Martin's University got a completely redesigned website, a product of a year of hard work from the Office of Marketing and Communications. While the intention was to increase functionality and aesthetics, there were a few bumps along the road and many students are less than satisfied. Most of the content on the new site seems to be desperate marketing claims, with questionable statistics on every page, such as, "Average number of languages heard in 24 hours: 4.7" and "New buildings planned not related to STEM: 0."

"So there's plenty of money for a new website, but no money to provide the campus with reliable Wi-Fi? I understand wanting to attract more applicants, but the bandwidth heavy redesign has made basic communication cumbersome for those already here," said Virginia O'Hara, a sophomore music major and theater minor.

The biggest embarrassment came when the homepage inexplicably displayed a picture of Odin, Norse god of the sky and father of the thunder god Thor.

"They must have gotten Odin confused with St. Benedict. Both are known for their epic beards, flowing robes and, most importantly, often depicted with ravens. Ravens are a common motif for both, so some intern on the web design or marketing team must have pulled that Odin pic off Google Images," said Severus Lowkey, Ph.D., a former SMU adjunct who taught religious studies

before being denied tenure.

"SMU was founded as a liberal arts school, but a disproportionate amount of funding goes to STEM, business, and marketing. Literature, history, political science and other fields are often neglected by administration because they don't exist for the sole purpose of making money. Had there been more funding for humanities faculty like me to make a living wage they could have consulted someone to find appropriate pictures for the webpage. Odin and St. Benedict often look alike, but Odin is always shown missing an eye whereas Benedict had two eyes. Most marketers only know Odin from the Marvel Thor movies," Lowkey concluded.

The image was swiftly replaced with a random photo of students casually strolling from point A to point B. Many prospective students and faculty who are devout Catholics were highly offended by the mishap.

"I thought SMU would be the perfect school for me, but having a picture of a Viking 'god' on the webpage is disgusting. The Vikings were the biggest persecutors of Catholics since Nero. I withdrew my application and now I'm applying to Gonzaga," one anonymous applicant told "The Shallot".

Having a pagan deity on the homepage of a Catholic university was a very puzzling accident, but the Office of Marketing and Communications was unavailable for comment.

## Administrators make it rain at 2015 Gala

**Edwin Cavenshaw**  
Guest Writer

Saint Fartin's University administrators wowed student volunteers and Gala goers alike when they unexpectedly "made it rain" on student volunteers. The students, bewildered by the directions to don miniature top hats and go dance, started to move around the Gala awkwardly in front of hundreds of potential donors, but when administrators whipped out stacks of cash and began to throw it to the unsuspecting students, the dancing became a frenzy.

Troy Pretendrickx, president of Saint Fartin's, personally sprinkled \$185,000 on the floor of the Worthington Pavilion. The money, which students grabbed from the floor haphazardly, equaled almost 75 percent of the president's annual salary.

When asked if he was taking a financial hit through his generosity, Pretendrickx replied, "Unlike faculty members, who have stacks of books in their offices, I have stacks of money falling over in mine."

Other members of the administration put up 50 percent of their salaries, and even Gala attendees joined in on the fun, emptying the contents of their wallets onto the floor before the live auction even started.

When asked why such an unconventional form of student scholarship was chosen to accompany the Gala, Caeseria Lovetwist, an event organizer, replied, "It was just good old fashioned entertainment. We got to see the students dance as if their education depended on it while we threw wads of cash at them. It

certainly was an empowering experience for us... and hopefully for the students too." "We don't want to be mistaken for some kind of socialist outfit," Provost Dolly Spiff clarified.

"We wanted to give some money to students, but in a way that they would learn the value of competition. There's nothing like dancing and fighting your classmates to pay off student loans!"

Asked whether or not she approved of blatant display of wealth, first-year student Anjelica Hoffenstoff happily showed "The Shallot" a wad of bills which she claimed totaled over \$7,000.

"When the bills started coming down on me, I just started stuffing them down my shirt. I have debt to pay off, damn it! I came to the event with a B cup, and by the time I left it looked like I had DD's!" said Hoffenstoff.

Despite an outpouring of student support, administrators seemed reluctant to confirm that the same display of indulgence would take place next year.

"As fun as it was to make it rain at the Gala, I'm probably going to come up with another fun way to clean some of the money out of my office next year," concluded Pretendrickx.

"I'm thinking about purchasing an orphanage in Brazil. Not only would it be great for Saint Fartin's relations with Brazil, I hear that Brazilians love to dance!"



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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

November 23, 2015

SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY

Belltower Word Scramble

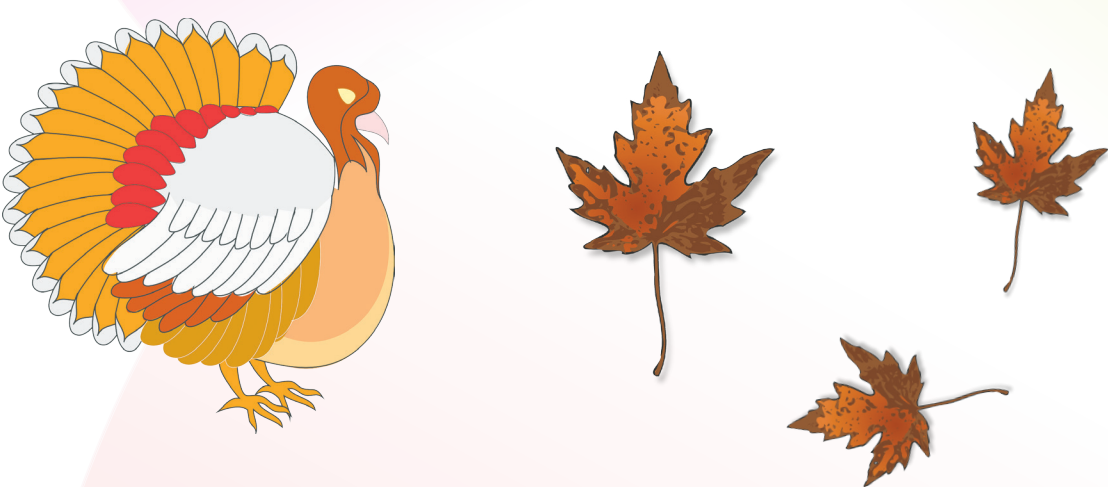
1. alga
2. etcltumriuul
3. erkkoa
4. itpocllia
5. ipasr
6. ganhgsntviki
7. eicustj
8. epeac
9. hitfa
10. tehtasi
11. uyle lbal
12. nditioatr
13. kimeroelt

Belltower Word Search

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

BASKETBALL  
CHEW  
COFFEE  
FAITH  
GALA  
INCARCERATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
JUSTICE  
KARAOKE  
MULTICULTURE  
PARIS  
PLAY  
THANKSGIVING  
YOGA  
YULE

6		5					3	2
2		8	6	3	9	7		5
			4		2	8		
8			9	4			7	
					1	5	9	
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				1				7
7	8	1	5			3		
			7	8	3	1		6



Can you spot all seven differences?

