

Graduation and the class of 2017

Taylor Gersch
Staff Writer

Graduation this year is May 20 at 10 a.m. lasting roughly two hours in the Marcus Pavilion. Each student will be allowed six tickets for family and friends. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. for all attendees and the seating is available on a first come first serve basis.

Family members and friends who you do not have enough tickets for, can comfortably enjoy graduation in the Norman Worthington Conference Center (NWCC) where it will be broadcasted live.

The Graduation Fair will be held in the NWCC on Thursday May 11 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Here, students will receive their cap and



Valedictorian Taylor Gersch (center) with fellow seniors Cameryn Althausen (left) and Claire McClosky (right)



Valedictorian Hope Chamberlain

gowns and pick up commencement tickets.

The Baccalaureate Mass and hooding ceremony will be held the day before graduation, Friday May 19 at 4:20 p.m. in the Marcus Pavilion. For this event, no reservations or tickets are required. Following the mass, both bachelor's and master's degree candidates will be hooded. Shortly after graduation the next day, the Saint Martin's Alumni association is hosting a reception for all graduating students

and their families on the campus lawn west of the Grand Staircase that will be covered by a large tent.

Ronda Vandergriff, assistant registrar, shared some graduation statistics. For the 2016-2017 school year, 340 undergraduate and 136 graduate students will be graduating. 148 students will be graduating with honors. If you've been wondering what graduation will look like, students will be alphabetically grouped within their major. This year, Saint Martin's named two valedictorians and one salutatorian for the 2016-2017 school year. I am one of the two valedictorians that will be speaking, along with Hope Chamberlain. The salutatorian this year is Hannah Wesselman.

Senior biology major and Salutatorian Hannah Wesselman is excited for what the future holds. "I was slightly surprised about being named salutatorian. I know there are a lot of really intelligent and talented students at SMU, and it is an honor to be named among them. I cannot wait for graduation! Two days after graduation, I leave to study abroad in Northern Europe and Ireland, so there are a lot of amazing adventures ahead, but it's still surreal that I will be leaving

SMU," explained Wesselman.

Senior English and theatre arts major and valedictorian Hope Chamberlain is thankful for her time at Saint Martin's.

See Graduation page 4



Salutatorian Hannah Wesselman

Monk of the Month: Father Paul Weckert, O.S.B.

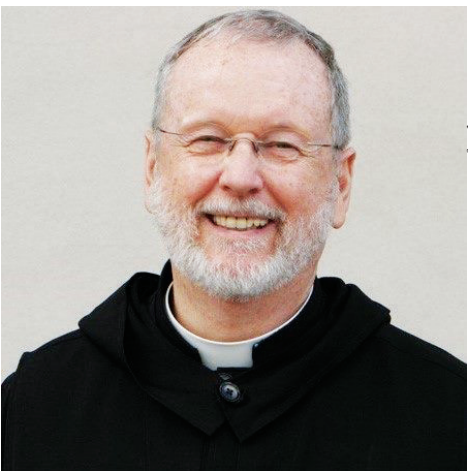
Kianna Garmanian
Staff Writer

Whether you've seen him in the halls, at the Church or dining at the cafeteria each night, this monk is well-liked and cherished by the students, faculty, and staff. At seventy years old, Father Paul Weckert, O.S.B., juggles his prayer life and daily responsibilities, while still making time to socialize with the students.

Because of his bubbly personality, caring character and loving heart, there is no one more fitting than Fr. Paul to be recognized as the Monk of the Month.

In 1988, at the age of 41, Fr. Paul entered the monastery at Saint Martin's University, as he felt called to the priesthood. He studied at St. Martin's and received his Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies in 1993. He then made his way to Mt. Angel Seminary

in Oregon and studied there for four years, earning his Master in Arts and Theology and Master of Divinity degrees. Finally, he traveled to Saint Vincent Seminary in Pennsylvania



Fr. Paul Weckert, O.S.B.

and studied monastic spirituality for a year. Returning to St. Martin's in

1999, he was ordained as a priest and began on his journey of service to the Lord.

A typical day for Fr. Paul begins at 4:20 a.m. While most of us students are probably sleeping or struggling to finish last-minute papers at this time, Fr. Paul is just beginning his day. He starts off every morning with prayer, devoting time for his personal Lectio Divina, which is a meditative and scriptural style of Benedictine prayer. Along with this, he joins together with the other monks three times a day (morning, noon and evening) to pray the Psalms and reflect on readings. In addition to prayer, the monks at St. Martin's also gather to celebrate Mass each day, as Christ in the Eucharist is the upmost importance of the Catholic faith.

Fr. Paul's prayer life is just one of the many aspects of his daily activities, as he also takes on multiple jobs and responsibilities. As Guest Master,

See Monk of the Month page 4

Softball



See page 4

Chemistry Club



See page 6

Study Abroad



See page 8

What's in this issue?

News 3
Features 4
Lifestyles 5

Sports 6
Classroom 8
A&E 9

Letters to the Editor . 10
Belltower Editorial . 10
Student Activities . 12

The Belltower

Editor-in-Chief
Roslyn Buff

Managing Editor
Sabrina White

Section Editors
Bethany Montgomery
Brittany Orlosky
Katherine Pecora

Business Team
Andrew Walter (manager)
Walther Hoffman (assistant)

Staff Writers
Evan Lake
Cleo Pineda
Taylor Gersch
Rebecca Robinson
Mariah Partin
Brian Messing
Nathan Pearsall
Lauren Allison
Breanna Brink
Saki Mino
Kianna Garmanian

Adviser
Julie Yamamoto

Layout Manager
Blake Cloward

Layout Assitants
Abigail Lowrie
Alexis Hickey

Web Manager
Alexis Hickey

Photographers
John Chaides
Harrison Devine
Chelsea Mancilla

Role of the adviser

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

Hello Belltower readers,

As we close out the spring semester, I am also getting ready to complete my final year at Saint Martin’s. This layout weekend was officially my last ever working at The Belltower. I can’t believe that my time working with the wonderful team has come to an end.

Being Editor-in-Chief this year has been a very educational experience. I learned to trust myself and my own instincts, but I also learned to take direction from my staff and to listen to the ideas of others. My team has taught me so much about what it means to be dedicated not just to a job, but to each other. Although there have been challenges along the way, I am so grateful for the time I’ve had and the people who have been here to support me.

In this issue, we take a look at the women’s softball team seniors and give an overview of their stats over the years they’ve been here. We also have a summary of Scholars Day and the Career Fair. Including this, we have a number of Letters to the Editor that came as a response to the editorial that we e-mailed out on May 3. We hope these letters will allow for the community to continue the conversation regarding unionization efforts and give a voice to a variety of people in our community.

I have greatly enjoyed my time at Saint Martin’s. The people I met truly changed me and made me a better person. I’m excited to begin the next chapter of my journey, but I will always remember my time here and I will miss the people and the professors who have guided me and allowed me to grow.

In this, my last editor’s note, I want to remind our readers of the value of communication. The people we meet in our lives are people with whom we will have to communicate, talk and interact. This can be done in a passive way, a way in which we listen only to hear the pieces that are important to us before moving on to something else. But it can also be done in a way that emphasizes respect. Listen to the people you meet not only because you have to, but because they are a person just like you. You can learn from their words and their actions. Communicate with respect, remembering to treat others like you want to be treated. Try to be honest with people, and allow yourself to be vulnerable and to ask for help from others when you need. We are all together on this journey. We can’t do it alone.

Best,
Roslyn Buff

Our Mission

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

Are you interested in
writing for The Belltower?

We are accepting articles from student writers. If you see something newsworthy, turn it into a story.

For questions, comments, applications, submissions, or suggestions, send an email to belltower@stmartin.edu,

Or drop a note under the door of the newsroom,
HH 113

Guest Submissions Policy

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

Advertising Policy

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

Ad Rates

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

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

Content Policy

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

ASSMU reflects on academic year

Cleo Pineda
Staff Writer

Another year has passed for the Associated Students of Saint Martin's University (ASSMU). Some of the responsibilities of the student government include judiciously distributing the student activity fee, collectively serving as the voice for the student body by holding weekly ASSMU meetings, and on-campus events and representing the concerns and interests of their peers during the Board of Trustee's meetings and social gatherings.

Before kicking off summer vacation, Senator of Clubs, Rebecca Tong gave a recap of her ASSMU experience. When asked about the group's main focus for the school year, Tong discussed their effort to be transparent.

"During the ASSMU retreat last year, Heather Berg (President) brought forth the idea and we all agreed that it should be our focal point," Tong said. The 2015-2016 ASSMU team went on a weekend retreat with the current representatives to transition into and bring up goals for the upcoming school duration.

Tong continues, "as regular students, we knew that we needed transparency because it is important to know not only where our money goes but also that the officers are expressing our needs accordingly. As a senate, we knew that we needed transparency to assure our constituents that we are doing the best we can to serve everyone's interest. We didn't want anyone to feel like we had any secrets."

In hopes of keeping everyone in the loop, this year's senate voted on abolishing closed-door meetings. Unlike in the past, they decided to carry out their tasks in their weekly public meetings. The senators vote on memorandums and

amendments the same day that they are introduced to them; they did not discuss anything beforehand. As opposed to coming into the open-door meetings already equipped with a decision, they invited others in on that process.

One of the lengthier topics of discussion was with regards to amending the senate constitution and bylaws. In order to be eligible to run for a senator position, the student is required to identify with their constituents.

Tong explained, "When you're are running for senator of business or senator of education, it is easy to tell that you are capable of representing your constituents because it's easy to draw the line between being a business major versus being an education major or vice versa. It's not the same for international students because there are some who have been an international student in the past but just aren't right now. With a topic like that, we generated a lot of opinions from the senate, clubs, and even other groups on campus that don't usually speak out like the international students."

Now, the senator of international students position is open to anyone with international experience rather than someone with a visa.

"I think that we were able to fulfill our duty of providing clarity for SMU because student involvement is exactly what we were hoping to accomplish," Tong expressed. During the entirety of their term, ASSMU only held about two closed-door meetings which were requested by some senators. After winter break, the senate met to check their progress on the goals that they set for themselves at the beginning of the year.

"We did not discuss any memorandums or the budget at all. We mainly used that time to discuss our agenda and see how each other was doing--it was also our time to bond," Tong said. Coming



Photo courtesy of John Chaudes

2017-2018 ASSMU President Harrison Devine

into fall semester, ASSMU had a seventeen-thousand-dollar deficit.

"By being clear with our constituents and keeping a firm grip on our club rule book, we managed get next year's ASSMU debt-free," Tong shared.

The results of the 2017-2018 ASSMU senate election were announced on April 24 and are as follows:

President: Harrison Devine
Vice President: Garnet Hatcher
Senator of Arts and Sciences: Mc Erl Dave Andres
Senator of Athletic Students: Martin Lopez
Senator of Business: Michael Otter-Johnson
Senator of Clubs: Toni Aukusitino
Senator of Commuter Students: Samantha Bibeau
Senator of Cultural Diversity: Nebiat Gebre
Senator of Education: Taylor Boster
Senator of Engineering: Jordan Wyman
Senator of International Students: Salma Mala
Senator of Non-Traditional Students: Robyn Sanchez
Senator of Life Sciences: Larissa Kolasinski

Saint Martin's University Scholars Day unites different disciplines

Evan Lake
Staff Writer

On Tuesday May 2, Saint Martin's University hosted its annual Scholars Day conference where students presented academic papers and projects from various disciplines. Held in Harned Hall and new Cebula Hall, the event featured 60 student scholars who gave presentations and exhibited posters.

The conference held six half-hour sessions with a total of 35 presentations, as well as concurrent poster display sessions. Many fields of study were represented at the event, including economics, criminal justice, engineering, philosophy, communications, literature, psychology, political science and English.

Student presentations handled a variety of topics ranging from the practical to the abstract. An engineering project by Blake Cloward, Hiroshi Kanno, Mohammed Alafaliq, Meshary Al-Doosary, Saad Al-Jumah and Kim Ohan Le used computer simulation technology to design and test the effects of aerodynamic devices on automobiles. Usually found on airplanes, aerodynamic devices like vortex generators direct airflow. After simulating the designs using a virtual wind tunnel, the students hand-manufactured a roof wing using a combination of resins, polyurethane foam and fiberglass.

Another student presenter, Marcus Bufford, read a paper entitled "Plato's Perfect City and Other Authoritarian Lies," in which he

challenged "The Republic," a well-known Socratic dialogue written by the classical Grecian philosopher Plato. Bufford argued that "The Republic," which depicts a utopian society managed by a "guardian" class, was incompatible with a realistic account of human nature and

through her virtuous character. Pettis-Infante provided an example in the symbolism of Mary crushing the head of a snake, a Christian image of Satan or evil. Her presentation concluded with a discussion of female archetypes in Freudian psychology and the need to consider



Photo courtesy of Blake Cloward

Blake Cloward presented at Scholars Day and played piano during the luncheon

would be authoritarian in practice. According to Bufford, "The Republic" is fundamentally unjust because it places intolerable restrictions on human freedom.

Communications major Sophia Pettis-Infante discussed how overly-sexualized representations of women in media create a culture which objectifies and commodifies them. Pettis-Infante then argued that Mary, the mother of Jesus, offered an empowering archetype in reestablishing the dignity of women. Rebutting characterizations of Mary as passive and subordinate to male figures, Pettis-Infante argued that Mary exemplified strength

women holistically.

Christian Yoro gave a presentation on wrongful conviction in felony cases and possible solutions to the incarceration of innocents. Using the example of Ronald Cotton, a man who was wrongfully convicted of rape and burglary, Yoro identified the causes of wrongful conviction. Psychological errors were the predominant issue, including faulty eyewitness memories and the confusion of suspects at police lineups, coercive interrogation by law enforcement which can result in false confessions and the biased power structure of courtrooms. Yoro concluded the discussion with a call for

more training and supervision, as well as increased accountability for police and court officials.

In her presentation "University Pornography: Oppression of Values in the Case of Saint Martin's University," Alyssa Kageler argued the university does not sufficiently enforce its prohibition on viewing pornography using the campus internet connections. Citing the university's Integrated Technology Acceptable Use Policy and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Kageler argued that Benedictine values cannot be upheld without proper enforcement. Kageler further stated that the 1986 U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography demonstrated a correlation between violent pornography viewership and the tendency toward sexual violence. Attending the presentation was Director of Housing and Residence Life Tim McClain, who said that the Information Technology department does monitor internet usage for pornography and that students are held accountable for not adhering to university policies regarding pornography.

Those interested in the full Scholars Day program can find an archive of Scholars Day presentations at the university's website, as well as guidelines for applying for next year's event.

Graduation, from cover

"I'll miss Saint Martin's a lot, but I know I and the rest of my graduating class are going to go and do some really wonderful things," said Chamberlain.

Chamberlain wants to thank David Hlavsa, theater professor, and Darrell Born, chairman of the Fine Arts Department and associate music professor, who have been her

biggest supporters during her time here at Saint Martins.

I am very thankful to be able to represent my school as valedictorian of my class along with Chamberlain and Wesselman. Saint Martin's was the perfect fit for me because I was able to play the sport I loved while pursuing my academic goals and succeed along with my friends.

I wouldn't have been able to accomplish what I have today without my family and friends. I will be graduating again in December with my Master of Business Administration degree from Saint Martin's and plan on teaching English abroad in Italy for three months before attending law school in the following fall.



Photo retrieved from creativecommons.org

Monk of the Month, from cover

Fr. Paul practices Benedictine hospitality, making sure that the guest rooms are clean, the laundry is done and the towels are folded for all those who visit our campus. As Vocation Director, Fr. Paul reaches out to and converses with individuals who are interested in joining the monastery or discerning the religious life. As a Catholic priest, he attends Mass about seven to 10 times per week, listens to confessions and administers the Sacraments. A few of his other tasks include filling up the gas tanks for the cars and buying materials to create new habits for the monks.

While Fr. Paul deserves the recognition of Monk of the Month based on his tasks and duties alone, his interaction and role in the lives of the students are what stand out the most. During the fall of 2016, Fr. Paul received permission from Abbot Neal Roth, O.S.B. to eat with the students during dinner meals. The Benedictine life is focused on community building, so Fr. Paul needed special permission to leave his community of monks at dinner and be with the students. He felt an urge to spend time with and support the students at St. Martin's because he remembered how necessary this care and guidance was during his time in school.

Ranging from Bible lessons, relationship advice, lessons for school and moral support, Fr. Paul covers all the topics at the dinner table. He



Father Paul and junior Kieran O'Donnell, laughing and sharing stories with other students at the table.

especially enjoys answering students' questions about God, faith and spirituality and is amazed at how interested individuals are about these topics. "God made you because He wanted you

to love Him. There are two great lessons in this sentence. The first one is God made you because He wanted you, which means that you are desired and special to Him. The second part of the sentence describes eternal love. You have a destiny, a meaning, and a decision to love the Lord back," said Fr. Paul to a group of students at dinner one night.

He also encourages students to study and not get behind in the classroom, offering tremendous support and helpful tips for writing papers, studying for tests and getting good grades. Before Fr. Paul entered the monastery, he had his fair share of relationships, so he is always sharing stories about the components of healthy relationships and how to incorporate God into dating and marriage. On top of this, he also offers practical help in the areas of life that teens struggle with.

Fr. Paul exemplifies true Christian love and discipleship, as he works to live like Christ each day. He sees the Lord in all individuals, treating others with respect, kindness and care, modeling Benedictine leadership and spirituality.

Fun fact: Here is a list of Fr. Paul's top-five sayings/questions to students at the dinner table: "I worry about you;" "How are you doing;" "How are your classes;" "You are loved," and "Will you be joining us for prayer or Mass tonight?"

A year in review: the Chemistry Club

Saki Mino
Staff Writer

The Chemistry Club on campus is comprised of engineering, physics, math and chemistry majors that actively teach science through volunteer activities with different groups in Lacey, Wash., and Olympia, Wash. One of the exciting activities that the Chemistry Club participates in is the STEM Outreach Club, also called the Expanding Horizon Club, at the Boys and Girls Club. They have helped teach elementary school students science through fun activities at the center for the past two years.

This year they demonstrated how to make cheese using milk and lemon juice.

"The club members see that kids can get inspired from those experiences outside of classroom," said Anna Agloro, president of the Chemistry Club. "It was definitely rewarding not only for them, but for us," she emphasized.

The Chemistry Club also helps explain science-related topics to adults at the Hands On Children's Museum Adult Swim series. This year, they explained the process of tempering chocolate, as well as the science involved with carbonating fruit.

Outside of volunteer activities, the Chemistry Club participates in the American Chemical Society (ACS) annual conference and exposition



The Chemistry Club at the ACS conference

which supports scientific inquiries in the field of chemistry every year. This spring, six students from the Chemistry Club, Agloro, Heather Bycynski, Ha Nguyen, Joe Edgecomb, Kayrin Nicole and Hannah Wesselman, conducted presentations of their research at the conference in San Francisco.

According to Jonathan Ogata, the future president of the Chemistry Club, "The ACS conference provides many invaluable opportunities to our club members. There is an exposition with representatives from many different companies, and this provides our students with opportunities to network with possible future employers. Furthermore, the conference allows us to present

our research, speak with graduate school recruiters, attend research presentations from experts in the field and have an all-around phenomenal experience!" he explained. To raise money for this trip, the club conducted bake sales and sold their club t-shirts.

On April 27, the Chemistry Club elected executive officers for the 2017-18 year. Ogata shared his excitement about the process.

"William Cochran (VP), Jessie Balkwell (Secretary), Joe Edgecomb (Treasurer) and myself as a president are all very excited to be leading and representing the Chemistry Club for the 2017-18 year! We have such a good group of people in our club, and we are going to put forth maximum effort to provide them with the opportunities they deserve," he said, smiling.

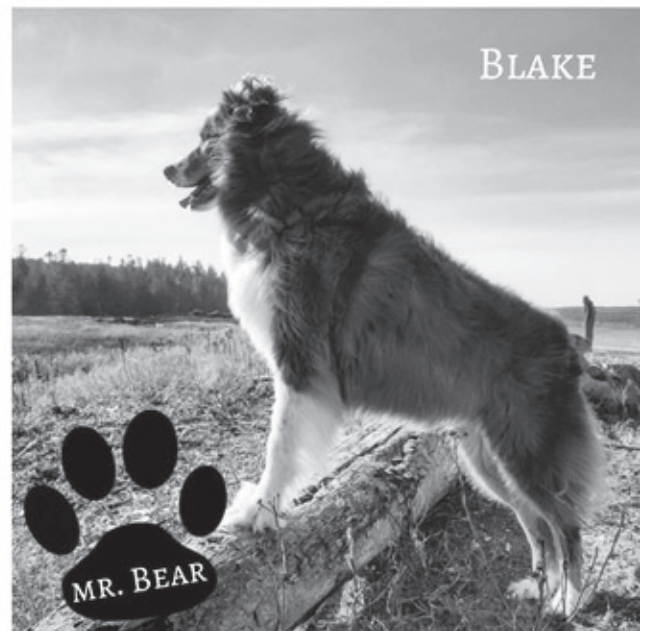
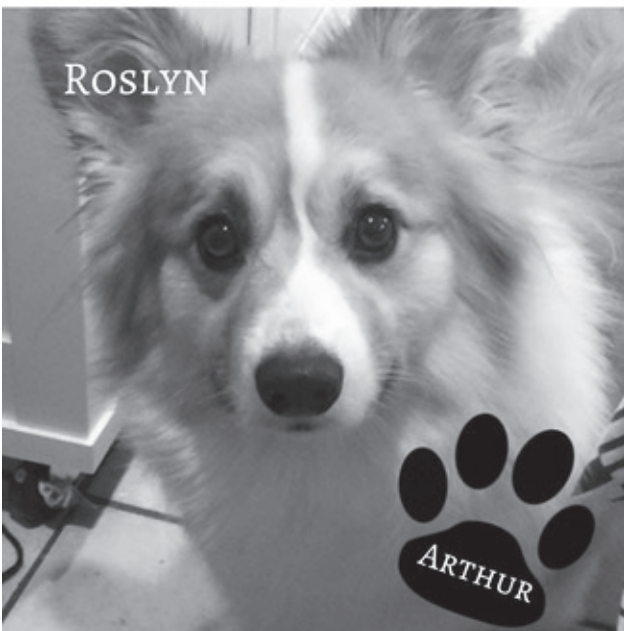
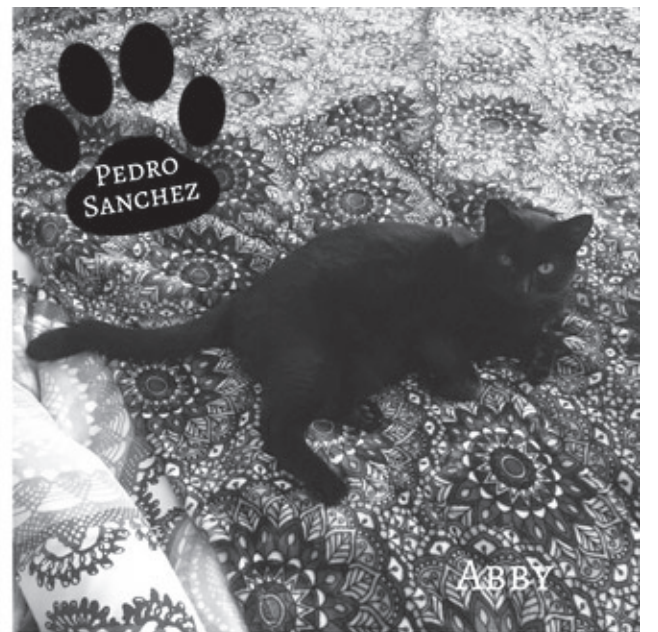
Next year, the Chemistry Club aims to achieve their goals of recruiting more students into the club, bringing chemistry students to the ACS annual conference, representing Saint Martin's University's community and teaching science to as many people as possible. Specifically, they are planning to participate in more volunteer activities and conduct "out of the box" fundraising events in addition to lots of bake sales.

"We are still brainstorming our goals and the pathways to achieve them for the coming year. The Chemistry Club is very eager for 2017-18, and we hope that you will continue following and supporting us!" Ogata concluded.



CALLING ALL WRITERS AND COMPUTER SAVVY INDIVIDUALS






THE BELLTOWER IS NOW HIRING STAFF WRITERS AND LAYOUT ASSISTANTS!
APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT BELLTOWERSMU.ORG




Graphics designed by Alexis Hickey


Thanks for sticking with us!


 We'll be back in September of 2017.
 

Have a great Summer!




Interested in working for us?
 Email Sabrina.White@stmartin.edu
 or apply online at www.belltowersmu.org



Softball seniors reflect on playing for SMU

Lauren Allison
Staff Writer

Jackie Schmaeling #21
Position: Catcher/Infield

Major: History and political science
Plans for next year:
Next year I plan on going to graduate school to get my master’s in teaching and teaching credential. I’m still waiting to hear back from some schools so I haven’t decided where yet.

One experience from your years at SMU that you will always cherish:
After attending SMU I was able to meet so many great people that I never would have if I had gone to a larger school. I always knew at the start of a new school year I would always have someone I knew in a class. And if I didn’t, classes were small enough you would get to know people really quick! Because of this, I’m leaving SMU with great relationships with my teammates as well as my classmates that will last even after graduating.

What you will miss most about playing at SMU:
What I’ll miss most are the relationships I’ve built with all of my teammates. Without this experience I would never have gotten the opportunity to not only meet my teammates but to play the game I love with them. Nothing will beat the feeling of turning a sweet double play or throwing a girl out with the help of my other teammates.

One moment you will remember most:
The moment I’ll never forget was during my freshman year at the conference tournament. We were playing Western Washington and we were down going into the bottom of the 7th. Dani Wall, a junior then, Mary Dettling and myself hit back-to-back-to-back home runs for the walk off win.

What it means to be a student athlete:
To be have been a student athlete shaped who I am today. It required me to make sacrifices whether it was in how I got involved on campus to how I would prioritize my school work knowing I’d miss class later that week for games. Being a student athlete is exactly what the title entails, you have all the responsibilities of a student while also working full time as an athlete to get better at your sport.

Future softball plans:
After spending so much of my life on the softball field, it almost seems impossible to imagine my life without it in some form. My goal has always been to coach competitive softball once my career as a player was over.

| Year | Games Played | Starts | Home Runs | Stolen Bases | Doubles | Walks | RBIs | On Base % | Hitting Avg. |
|------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|------|-----------|--------------|
| FR | 47 | 47 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 13 | 20 | 0.383 | 0.371 |
| SO | 61 | 61 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 20 | 40 | 0.447 | 0.478 |
| JR | 52 | 52 | 3 | 11 | 16 | 19 | 27 | 0.345 | 0.527 |

Alyssa Slate #24
Position: Infield

Major: Psychology with a minor in criminal justice
Plans for next year:
Vacation a little and then I plan to take the Public Safety testing and apply for Law Enforcement jobs in Washington.

One experience from your years at SMU that you will always cherish:
The experience of playing college softball will always be my biggest experience to cherish at SMU.

What you will miss most about playing at SMU:
I will of course miss the game and competition of college softball, but more importantly I will miss being around teammates and building life-long friendships with them.

One moment you will remember most:
Every year, we usually get the opportunity to play against some top-10 Nationally Ranked teams in a tournament hosted in California, and my most memorable moments come from playing tough games and coming through with a couple wins against really good opponents.

What it means to be a student-athlete:
To me, being a student athlete means being blessed with an opportunity to play a sport that I am passionate about at the college level, while also having the opportunity to advance my education in the classroom. It means dedicating most of my energy and time to academics and softball and loving every minute of it, because this opportunity is a once in a life time chance that most people do not get to have.

Future softball plans:
I hope to coach softball in the future and I will probably end up joining an adult slow-pitch softball league... but I might get yelled at for being too competitive until I adjust to the post-college athlete life and learn to tone it down a bit.

| Year | Games Played | Starts | Home Runs | Stolen Bases | Doubles | Walks | RBIs | On Base % | Hitting Avg. |
|------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|------|-----------|--------------|
| FR | 48 | 40 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 0.327 | 0.235 |
| SO | 61 | 61 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 28 | 0.404 | 0.429 |
| JR | 54 | 52 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 0.336 | 0.319 |

Corrie Wilson #20
Position: Catcher/Infield

Major: Business administration with a concentration in management
Plans for next year:
I plan to have some fun for a couple months traveling and then start my career while applying to the master’s program at Western Washington.

One experience from your years at SMU that you will always cherish:
The team. I wish everyone could experience being on a team full of girls that turn into your close friends, who click with you, have similar interests, can joke around with, spend every day with. You find people who come part of your family and people you can lean on for help when you need it. I’ll cherish my friendships forever with all the teammates I’ve had here. Without them I probably wouldn’t have been able to graduate college.

What you will miss most about playing at SMU:
The friendships I built through the game we all loved to play.
The priceless moments on the field with my people. Most importantly my Left Side Strong Side partner Alyssa Slate.

One moment you will remember most:
Senior year, coming together to win the series against top ranked Central Washington. Walk off homeruns, a 10 inning game we end up winning with a grand slam, clutch defensive plays and strong pitching. Just doesn’t get any better than that. Memories that will last me a life time for sure.

What it means to be a student-athlete:
Dedication. To me making it as a student athlete for four years shows dedication to the 20 girls I play for through my time. On and off the field, working on the sport itself and studies. Staying focused on the off season, preparing while also staying on top of grades to maintain the conference academic champs. Being a student athlete has shaped me into the person I am today, and has taught me many life lessons and tools I can use in the future.

Future softball plans:
I hope to coach someday but there is no rushing into that. For now, I’m going to take these last games in as much as possible before I retire and hit the slow pitch fields.

| Year | Games Played | Starts | Home Runs | Stolen Bases | Doubles | Walks | RBIs | On Base % | Hitting Avg. |
|------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|------|-----------|--------------|
| FR | 28 | 22 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 0.274 | 0.31 |
| SO | 22 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 0.345 | 0.261 |
| JR | 44 | 32 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 0.35 | 0.315 |



Photo courtesy of SMU Athletics

Seniors (front, from left to right): Mary Detling, Corrie Wilson, Jackie Schmaeling, Alyssa Slate

Kana`i Smith #1
Position: Infield

Major: Communications
Plans for next year:
My plans for next year is to audition for the voice. My plans for a job in the future would be to work for a health care agency
One experience from your years at SMU that you will always cherish:
My one experience to cherish from my four years at SMU would be meeting new people from different parts of the country and building life-long relationships with them.
What you will miss most about playing at SMU:
I am most definitely going to playing with these girls and having that team chemistry, even though I did not play in the Spring because of my ACL injury, I am glad I could still keep the bonds with the team.
One moment you will remember most:
One moment that I remember most out on the field and with my team would be in 2013 when us seniors were freshmen and we beat Western Wash- ington in the Regional tournament with three back to back homers.
What it means to be a student-athlete:
Being a student athlete means being dedicated, motivated and committed to a team and positively representing your school and community. It also means that you work hard on the field and in the classroom.
Future softball plans:
When I am well and healthy, I plan to play slow pitch softball to keep in shape. But other than that, I do not have any plans for professional softball after this year.

| Year | Games Played | Starts | Home Runs | Stolen Bases | Doubles | Walks | RBIs | On Base % | Hitting Avg. |
|------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|------|-----------|--------------|
| FR | 28 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | | |
| SO | 49 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0.225 | 0.178 |

Mary Dettling #3
Position: Outfield

Major: Business with a concentration in management
Plans for next year:
I plan on moving back to Sparks, Nev. and working and watching my sister play her senior year at Montana State University Billings.
One experience from your years at SMU that you will always cherish:
Being able to play and grow up with my fellow seniors. We’ve been through thick and thin and we still stand together to lead the team. It’s a priceless experience and I’m grateful to have played with them.
What you will miss most about playing at SMU:
I’m going to miss playing with my teammates. It was amazing to grow up with them and see them grow as people and as players.
One moment you will remember most:
My favorite memory would have to be during my sophomore year when we went to Utah for the regionals. There were many lightning strikes and the rule is if there’s lightning, it’s a 30 min game delay. We had six 30 min game breaks during one game!!! During those breaks we would be in the locker room dancing to music and just having a great time.
What it means to be a student-athlete:
It’s a character builder because you’re having long days, you’re learning how to manage your time well with class, softball practice/ games, home- work, and social life, you’re having to create relationships with your professors because their might be times when you’re going to miss class for games, and to constantly tell yourself that you can handle it. I know there were times where I had breakdowns because I felt I couldn’t handle all the pressure, but I got out of that stage and kept going.
Future softball plans: I plan on being a grad assistant at University of Nevada Reno softball team while getting my Masters in Business for two years starting in 2018.

| Year | Games Played | Starts | Home Runs | Stolen Bases | Doubles | Walks | RBIs | On Base % | Hitting Avg. |
|------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|------|-----------|--------------|
| FR | 33 | 33 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 16 | 7 | 0.463 | 0.487 |
| SO | 61 | 61 | 3 | 0 | 18 | 40 | 33 | 0.491 | 0.544 |
| JR | 51 | 50 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 25 | 27 | 0.489 | 0.564 |

Table design courtesy of Sabrina White

Nationally acclaimed poet reads poems for Saint Martin's faculty and staff

Rebecca Robinson
Staff Writer

The Robert A. Harvie Social Justice Lecture series presented a poetry reading with Reginald Dwayne Betts, a poet affiliated with a group called "Split This Rock" on April 24. "Split This Rock" is an organization that fosters poets from across the nation and celebrates as well as spreads poetry that raises awareness for injustice and social change.

Betts fell in love with poetry while he was in prison. Incarcerated and isolated in the confinement of his cell at the age of 16, he found solace in poetry. Much of his writing is inspired from his time in prison and his struggles growing up as a

black youth in Maryland. The injustice, violence and discrimination he witnessed and experienced firsthand are often recurring themes in his poetry. Between readings, he discussed his time in prison, and how he was nicknamed, "Shahid," which means witness. He spent most of his time in prison writing down what he saw.

After he was released from prison, he turned his life around. He wrote and published a memoir comprised of poems he wrote while in prison. During the lecture, he read a few poems from his memoir, which touched on the topics of guilt and innocence. He's also written two books of poetry, the first of which he had never read a poem from out

loud to anybody, but he felt compelled to read a poem from it during the lecture. He summed up the first book as his "life story."

Betts went on to read a couple of new poems from his phone. It was a surreal experience. He is currently studying at Yale Law School, and was appointed to the Coordinating Council of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention under President Obama. As he stood at the podium and read from his phone, his humility became evident. Despite his background and past mistakes, he overcame his struggles and used them to aid him in following his dream.

His presence while he read was mesmerizing. The words flowed



Reginald Dwayne Betts reading poetry.

effortlessly yet deliberately out of his mouth. His voice sounded melodic, as if singing a song. During the Q&A, he explained that when he reads his poetry, he gets into a sort of zone and trance-like state. In his words, when reading poetry, he "tries to make it sing."

Saint Martin's students see the world

Mariah Partin
Staff Writer

Mark Twain said it best when he wrote, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." This summer, Saint Martin's University is sending 43 students on study abroad trips to different countries to learn about and explore other cultures.

Traveling internationally encourages people to look at the world differently, giving them a better understanding of a different country and its people, as well as a new outlook on their own lives. Students new interests and language skills. These factors are attractive to future employers as well.

This summer, the program lengths vary and include academic trips as well as shorter, cultural immersion trips. Some of the students traveling this summer have traveled internationally before either with SMU previously or on their own, and loved the experience so much that they're going back for more.

Studying abroad has shown to be very beneficial. It's a journey that provides new adventures, lifelong friendships and personal development,

not to mention all of the new food you get to try. So, where are SMU students heading this summer?

Keyneth Blando, a graduate student, is heading to Duisburg, Germany to the University of Duisburg-Essen; School of Management for five weeks. He is most excited about meeting other students from around the world that are studying abroad, as well as exploring German cuisine. Blando said that he chose the trip because of the country's uniqueness and is most looking forward to learning about a new culture and its economy.

He also spoke wise words that I'm sure many would agree with, saying that being exposed to new countries and cultures broadens your horizons and perspectives, determining who you become in life and where you plan to go. This seems to be the same mindset of many students this summer who are fearlessly stepping outside of their comfort zones in order to grasp a better understanding of the world around them.

Madelyn Laskowski, biology major, is going to South Korea for a two week trip that will involve exploring Seoul and Gyeongju. This adventure will include visiting temples and plenty of

shopping markets, Korean language classes and hopefully a fill of Korean BBQ.

Laskowski is most eager about experiencing a completely different culture since she had gone on a trip to Europe last summer.

Breanna Brink, psychology major, is going on a trip to Northern Europe, visiting Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Norway for three weeks, a program led by Aaron Goings, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and David Price, Ph.D., professor of sociology and anthropology. When asked what food she's most excited to try, Brink said "Reindeer. I don't think I could bring myself to try whale."

This summer, students are also traveling to Vietnam, India, Japan and various other locations. Brenda Burns, director of the Study Abroad program, said that students should study abroad in order to truly experience a different culture outside of their own, and to enhance their academic, personal and professional worldview. If students are interested in learning more, they should head to the Study Abroad Office and see her on the fourth floor of Old Main in room 427. Remember to plan early. The sooner the better, as Burns says.

Saint Martin's celebrates 20th annual career fair

Brian Messing
Staff Writer

Saint Martin's University hosted its annual career fair for the 20th time last Wednesday, April 26. The spring career fair is the largest of the career fairs that Saint Martin's hosts every year, with three smaller ones in the fall pertaining to particular fields. These include the Business Career Fair, STEM Career Fair and Careers for the Common Good (mostly non-profits). The spring career fair combines everything

from private corporations to public entities and non-profits to graduate programs. In total, there were 126 different organizations represented, including many employers offering jobs with salaries.

The career fair was a huge success with 340 students and members of the community attending. Attendance was up 14 percent from last year. Ann Adams, Director of Career Development, said that she was "pleased with the student turnout and grateful for student greeters, set up people for being remarkable ambassadors." There were a total of eight student volunteers whose work was essential to the success of the career fair.

There were many sponsors that made the career fair an outstanding event. In addition to ASSMU and the Alumni Association, the two main sponsors, 10 of the organizations that attended also contributed. The Alumni Association even had a booth near the door and helped students who had never been to a career fair before. Alumni walked with students to various booths and introduced them to organizations.

The career fair was not limited to only Saint Martin's students; students from The Evergreen State College and South Puget Sound

Community College also attended. There was a shuttle bus that ran students from Evergreen back and forth throughout the day. Students from surrounding universities and colleges are always welcome at Saint Martin's career fairs. Saint Martin's students are also welcome to attend Evergreen's fairs which include their Internship Fair and Graduate School Fair.

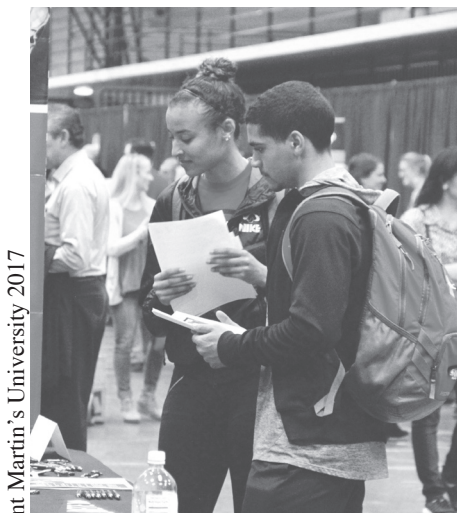
President Roy Heynderickx and his wife also attended the career fair. The two have never missed the event. 10 minutes before it began, President Heynderickx delivered a thank you speech to the attending organizations as well as the sponsors. The President also talked to many of the representatives of the organization that attended. Kathleen Heynderickx, President Heynderickx's wife, also gave encouragement to those who attended.

The event brought various groups across Saint Martin's together and united them for a common cause. According to Adams, "an event this size takes the entire community." The Marketing Department, for example, designed the program, Communications prepared the press release, Public Safety made rounds through the pavilion during the event, Facilities was in charge of



The YMCA booth at the career fair

putting up and taking down banners outside, Bon Appetit provided 250 bagged lunches for the organizations that represented and the office of finance handled all of the payments that were made. The Career Center printed all of the materials that were used in-house. Overall, everyone who attended was very impressed with the career fair. It was truly remarkable to see the entire community come together to put on this event.



Keirnan Hawthorne and Anthony Manago talking to recruiters at the fair.

Movies in May: What to watch when you're free

Breanna Brink
Staff Writer

The semester is drawing to a close, and while it may not be on your mind now amongst the fear of finals, essays and group projects, when summer rolls around, people often spend a lot of their time at the movies.

Because of this very reason, I don't have a review this week, but I figured I would do something a little different. I, and anyone else who likes wasting time and money at the theatre, attempt to plan out a watch list for the summer months. As a result of that idea, I present to you a compilation of May films to enjoy.

First, one should understand the psychology of summer movies. Summer, as all producers know, is next to December in importance. Students are out of school, supposedly everyone has more money, and the number of butts in seats is bound to go up. Because of human availability, producers dump loads of money into these blockbuster films. Not all of which are good, but they all have some semblance of mind numbing entertainment to them. Summer films have a reputation for being either terrible or impressive. So with that in mind, it should not

be a surprise that explosive films like the next "Transformers" installment or children's hits like "Cars 3" are all coming out within the next two months.



Movies to look forward to this summer

Of course, I won't be able to list all the films as there are too many to see in one month, and some just aren't advertised enough to make an impact. I will try my best to include a variety of films for all interests and ages!

May starts off extremely strong with "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," which came out on the 5th. Peter Quill and his expanded superhero family battle new foes and an absent

father as the galaxy threatens to end itself for a second time.

Sliding in after the well anticipated Marvel movie are two movies both released on May 12. The first

classic teenage (sufferable) romance with "Everything, Everything," and another installment to the Alien franchise with "Alien Covenant". If you aren't in the mood to watch two teenagers fall in love, then maybe watching Xenomorphs destroy couples is more your thing.

"Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul," also out May 19, offers an alternative for younger audiences to enjoy if you just want to take your kid to the movies during the week-end. With a light-hearted children's comedy, you can get your kids to sit still for an hour and a half while you zone out.

Wrapping up May is another R rated film, (this time directed by Seth Gordon), "Baywatch," out May 25. Revamping the 1989 TV show, this film takes a crude stab at nostalgia and I have hopes it will do it right. Out on the same day is "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales." Another installment to the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series, the film has kept most of its plot under wraps.

With Captain Jack Sparrow and Mitch Buchannon wrapping up the film scene for May, I have high hopes for the rest of the summer.

is a mother daughter driven R-rated comedy called "Snatched," while the other film offers something for the more adventurous movie goers with "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword." Both films offer promise in different areas. While one appears to be a well-paced girl's night out, the other looks like a well shot, gritty summer action flick.

May 19 creeps up from behind to offer two very different movies, a

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Sabrina White
Managing Editor

HBO recently turned the bestselling novel "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" written by Rebecca Skloot into a TV-Movie special that aired April 22. The special featured Oprah Winfrey as Deborah Lacks and Rose Byrne as Skloot.

The story of Henrietta Lacks is one of great controversy and heartbreak. Henrietta Lacks suffered from Cervical cancer, and received treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital for her cancer, at the time when there was still a segregated colored wing for non-white patients. Doctors often overlooked colored patients during this time period. Henrietta Lacks and her cells shaped modern medicine, invading all aspects of medical practices including vaccines like polio, treatments for many types of

diseases, and much more. Her cell line, HeLa, was the first discovered 'immortal' cell line that allowed for extreme advances in medicine across the world. HeLa cells were bought and sold around the globe and had made companies millions of dollars in revenue.

The controversy arises from the lack of consent from Henrietta Lacks and her family, as well as increased controversy over her family not receiving accurate information regarding her cells (many of her family thought that she was somehow still alive), and the lack of compensation for Henrietta's family once they found out about her cell line and its contributions. Henrietta's cell line controversy also came about during the same time that the Tuskegee Syphilis Study took place, which caused the death of hundreds of African Americans

in very unethical testing of Syphilis vaccines.

The film itself does an excellent job portraying the emotions of Deborah, her family, and Rebecca as they go through the journey to dig deeper into Henrietta's life and her cell line. Although it does skip over some of the more essential information regarding HeLa cells themselves, and very important scenes regarding her family, it is still worth the watch. As a biology major, the story of Henrietta was extremely interesting and I was excited to see the book come to life. I do recommend that you read the book first, as it offers much more insight and is a beautiful read.

HBO did a wonderful job with casting, as Oprah Winfrey felt perfect as Deborah. Rose Byrne as Skloot felt passionate and real, as the emotions of both characters interacted so well on screen. I am disappointed that they skipped some very formative scenes from the book, including Deborah's childhood and the scenes describing Henrietta's cells being cultivated. Overall, the HBO special was well done and depicted the raw emotions and connections beautifully. It brought to life the woman who changed medicine and history and who has touched millions of people through vaccines, medications, and life saving medical advances.



Henrietta Lacks, the woman behind HeLa cell line

GAB'S

OLYMPIC

CARDS & COMICS

4230 PACIFIC AVENUE
LACEY, WA 98503
(360) 459-7721

**Comics, Graphic Novels,
Boardgames, Card Games,
Roleplaying Games, Toys,
Statues, Action Figures,
and much more!**

Ask about our
LOYALTY PROGRAM!

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
MON-SAT: 10AM-MIDNIGHT • SUN: 10AM-6PM

OLYMPICCARDSANDCOMICS@GMAIL.COM

Letters in response to Belltower Editorial sent on May 3

From the SMU Faculty Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee of the Faculty and Librarian union appreciate the efforts made by the students and staff of the Belltower to assemble information about the current efforts to unionize on campus and the possible impacts the strike might have on students.

We would like to take this opportunity to address the community about our efforts to impact institutional change. To this end, we have included our most recent letter to President Heynderickx (below and as an attachment) and would like to offer a few brief corrections to the recent message from the Belltower.

First: If the union does not have the votes to authorize a strike, the strike will not occur. Saint Martin’s faculty have unionized with SEIU Local 925, which is a democratically run organization with very clear bylaws stating that a two-thirds majority of voters are required to approve a strike for it to go forward. The faculty Organizing Committee will report the vote count and results in a transparent manner, and we will not pursue a strike unless an overwhelming majority of voters approve of it. The bylaws do not empower the Organizing Committee to declare a strike without the votes. Moreover, the Saint Martin’s University administration has full power to end this stressful situation immediately. All that is required is for the administration to recognize our union, which we formed in democratic elections in June 2016 and April 2017.

Second, union speech is protected by the Constitution, the National Labor Relations Act, and Washington State Law. The Saint Martin’s administration would be violating the law were they to fire faculty, particularly contingent faculty whose union has been recognized by the National Labor Relations Board. That said, employers break these laws frequently, knowing they may be delayed for years in court. The best way to prevent anyone from being fired is for as many faculty and students as possible to support the picket line.

In addition, all members of the Organizing Committee will be involved in the graduation ceremony. This has been a commitment the Organizing Committee has held firmly from the beginning.

Finally, regarding grades: in the event that faculty union members vote to authorize a strike, and in the event that the administration continues to refuse to recognize the union through finals week, it will be up to the administration to decide how to handle students grades. In several strike situations, universities have elected to allow students to advance or graduate without complications, as they realize that not allowing this may impact future enrollment revenue. The administration can end the strike at any point in time by agreeing to come to the bargaining table with the faculty union.

See Belltower website for a PDF of the most recent letter delivered to President Heynderickx from the SMU Faculty Organizing Committee

Letter to the Editor:

I don’t know who wrote this, but WELL DONE. It was so nice to see an informative, non-biased e-mail sent to our students on a topic that can be incredibly divisive. It presented objective arguments on both sides and really allows our students to develop their own opinions regarding a strike. Excellent journalism! As a staff member, I found this to be the most useful information I have received on both sides regarding the strike and potential consequences. It makes me really proud of our students.

Beth Neill

To The Belltower-

Thank you for continuing to attempt to inform students (those who read and try to be aware) of what is going on in a relatively objective manner. It would be easy for your staff to take sides and debate the inflammatory issue but you’ve remained relatively neutral.

For what it’s worth, no faculty union exists, although the adjunct faculty has formed a union that is under dispute. It is unprofessional and unethical for tenured and non-tenured faculty to strike. But the bigger question is, “What are they striking for?” If you ask individual faculty members, separate and independent from the mob, what the purpose of this action is, it is very likely you will get a different answer from each instructor. And the majority of instructors are AGAINST the union and the strike.

If the organizers of this effort do strike, they risk termination, which would throw the university into chaos, and they know that, but the Board of Trustees is taking a hard line. It will be interesting to see how this plays out.

Thanks again for your efforts to keep everyone informed.

Sincerely,

Camille Dornbacher (The author of this letter wishes to remain anonymous. This is a pseudonym.)

Belltower Editorial: The truth must prevail

Without a doubt, this year has presented new challenges and stresses for both faculty, staff, students and the administration alike. There are many issues that need to be resolved regarding the treatment of both adjunct and full time faculty on campus.

This year has also presented new challenges for the staff of The Belltower. We have been forced into a position in which we need to cover very complicated issues. All of us on staff have different opinions and viewpoints and we have done our best to cover the viewpoints of both sides of the unionization issue. With our coverage, we have received letters questioning our facts and our reputability.

The Belltower would like to inform our readers that everything we publish is, to the best of our knowledge and with the verification that we have been able to receive, the truth. Sometimes we make mistakes, and we appreciate when the community informs us of the issues with our article.

This being said, we do not appreciate the assumptions that have been made that the Belltower would EVER publish information that we *know* to be false. We will absolutely take responsibility for the information that we publish that is inaccurate, but just because our readers do not agree with something that we publish does not mean that it is not true. We as a paper understand the importance of publishing true and accurate information. What we publish, especially regarding information about something as important as unionization efforts on campus, is true to the best of our knowledge and the ability that we have to verify it.

With the recent reports of posters being ripped off walls, we feel that it is necessary to remind our community that damaging behaviors such as vandalism or targeting specific people or groups are not an appropriate way to respond to disagreement. Members of our staff have refused to write articles regarding the union because of the pushback that they feel from community members and faculty members when the information published goes against specific viewpoints. This is not acceptable.

Both the union and the administration have been using the Benedictine values to promote their own message, but acts such as these are not Benedictine in any sense of the word.

We at the paper are going to continue to do our best to report accurate facts to the community. We ask, as always, that you let us know when something we have published is inaccurate, and we will admit our mistake and print a correction or a Letter to the Editor with the correct information. We hope that the community will find a way to work together in a kind and respectable way and to let the words of Saint Benedict guide our actions.

Letters in response to Belltower Editorial sent on May 3

To those who are concerned about the strike situation at Saint Martin’s University,

It appears that the unionization efforts at SMU have reached a flashpoint that threatens to destroy the progress that students, staff and faculty have made throughout this entire semester. In situations like this, emotion dominates; people naturally become frustrated and can make poor decisions if they don’t stick to a logically-guided path. With some of this frustration inspiring him to speak out but with a strongly considered case, this student would like to express his opinion of the current situation, explain why he believes his perspective is important, and suggest ways that we as a community can move forward.

What is the issue at stake and what does this student think about it?

Due to current staff-administration relations, many excellent professors are being underpaid for their hard work. This student has been taught by several of these professors and has had the opportunity to talk with them about the issue of wages. He is disappointed by the fact that so many hard-working, talented educators are not being justly rewarded for their efforts and he wishes to see significant progress toward resolving this issue. Keeping talent here is beneficial for everyone at Saint Martin’s University. Without good professors, the reputation of the University and its quality of education will suffer.

However, this student has seen recent support of striking at the University as little more than pursuit self-interest at the expense of the students. The first responsibility of university professors is to ensure that their students are equipped with knowledge and values that will guide them through their lives as citizens of the world. Those supporting the May 8 strike and further strikes into finals week are abandoning that responsibility for the purpose of seeking better pay. It seems that many are ignoring the future consequences of their actions for both themselves and the community as a whole. This strike not only threatens the grades and degrees of students, but also the jobs of many professors who have legitimate grievances and simply want to express them. Given his understanding of the situation, this student believes that a vote to strike now will hurt students, threaten participating staff/faculty’s jobs and slow the progress of improving wages at Saint Martin’s University.

What arguments does this student have to support this view, and why is his perspective valuable?

Firstly, the administration has already expressed its willingness to have direct discussions with staff/faculty members on this issue. Perhaps the administration has not guaranteed that these talks would be easy and not awkward, but a movement to start the conversation between staff/faculty and administration would be a sign that everyone who is concerned about this issue is invested in it. A strike at this point in time will send the message that staff/faculty is unwilling to have discussion with the administration and that they wish for somebody else to take care of the problem for them. This is not a healthy approach for change and is not likely to result in meaningful, positive progress for everyone.

Secondly, based on its recent activities, the union in question, the SEIU, will not represent staff/faculty for their well-being. During this past Washington State election, SEIU 775 sponsored a bill that you may have seen: Initiative 1501 that supposedly increased the penalties against those who commit identity theft against a senior. If one reads the Washington State voter’s pamphlet, they may notice that the official argument against Initiative 1501 claims that it was simply an attempt to prevent healthcare workers from knowing that they have the right not to pay union dues in Washington State. The SEIU would not support a bill that could increase the penalties against its union members; unions are supposed to work for the benefit of their members, and one should expect that they focus on issues of employment and not of civil penalties for things unrelated to their workers. It is clear to this student that the SEIU is attempting to use SMU’s professors to promote itself and quench its thirst for money.

Thirdly, a strike would not be in the interests of students or any staff/faculty that participate in it. By disrupting finals, grades will not accurately portray the effort students put in to earn them. Given the increased competition of the job market for college graduates, such circumstances will negatively affect students’ opportunities in the future. At this point, some may claim that this is the best way forward for underpaid staff and faculty and that professors should use the strike as an opportunity to voice their opinions. In reality, voting for a strike could very well lead to that professor’s termination. A termination will almost certainly worsen their chances of getting a job in education in the future and is likely not in the interests of anyone who wishes for things to get better.

In summary, a union is not necessary for the staff/faculty of Saint Martin’s University to communicate their needs to administration; the union that was selected to represent staff/faculty interests is more concerned about the dues of its members than their working conditions; and a vote to strike will inevitably lead to worse problems for everyone instead of a solution that benefits the community. These considerations are important because the fairly one-dimensional argument that has been going into this issue (‘either you’re for the professors or against them’) has not satisfactorily explained the reasons for taking action and the possible repercussions of certain kinds of action. This student wishes to make it clear that he supports the improved pay of professors, but not in the form of a strike as is proposed for May 8 and beyond because of these very considerations for everyone involved.

How do we move forward?

As is the case with many complicated issues, the solution to this problem is not simple, but I believe it’s essential components can be summarized with one word: responsibility.

The administration needs to begin arranging for staff/faculty discussion to happen now. As soon as possible, a future date should be arranged for concerned staff members and administration to talk about this issue that has existed for far too long, and it needs to happen directly. Dancing around the issue is no longer a good option. In short, the administration must act to ensure it meets its responsibility to reward teachers properly for their hard work. This goes hand-in-hand with its responsibility to provide top-quality education to its students.

Those staff members who are most motivated to act on this issue must take control to improve their pay instead of tossing it to an irresponsible, greedy union. When one confronts problems head-on, one can have greater control of how that problem is solved. This student honestly believes that joining the SEIU will not effectively help staff/faculty gain better pay, and he encourages them not to strike but to instead spend the summer talking honestly with the administration about their concerns. In short, staff/faculty must willing to openly communicate with administration about their problems to fulfill their responsibilities as valuable members of Saint Martin’s University. This goes hand-in-hand with their responsibilities to ensure their students’ academic, personal and future occupational wellbeing.

And yes, even students have a part in this. As the ones who learn from the University’s professors, we need to ensure that we answer exit questionnaires seriously, that we bring our concerns to those in administration who have the power to act on them and that we have honest conversations with our professors about their teaching and their rewards. In short, we must take responsibility as students to create the University that we want to study at by letting those whose salaries we pay know that we desire change.

I hope that a mutually-beneficial solution to this problem can be reached without impacting the grades of students, the jobs of professors, and the reputation of the University as a whole.

Sincerely,

Boris Charles Wellington (The author of this LTE wishes to remain anonymous. This is a pseudonym.)

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.

Accepting applications now! Apply online at communityyouthservices.org

Join Youth in Service and develop your community leadership skills and positively contribute to the lives of youth and families in the Olympia area.

\$1,205 monthly living allowance

\$5,815 Education award upon completion of the program

Student loan deferment while in service

Youth in Service AmeriCorps: Your opportunity to learn and serve in Thurston County



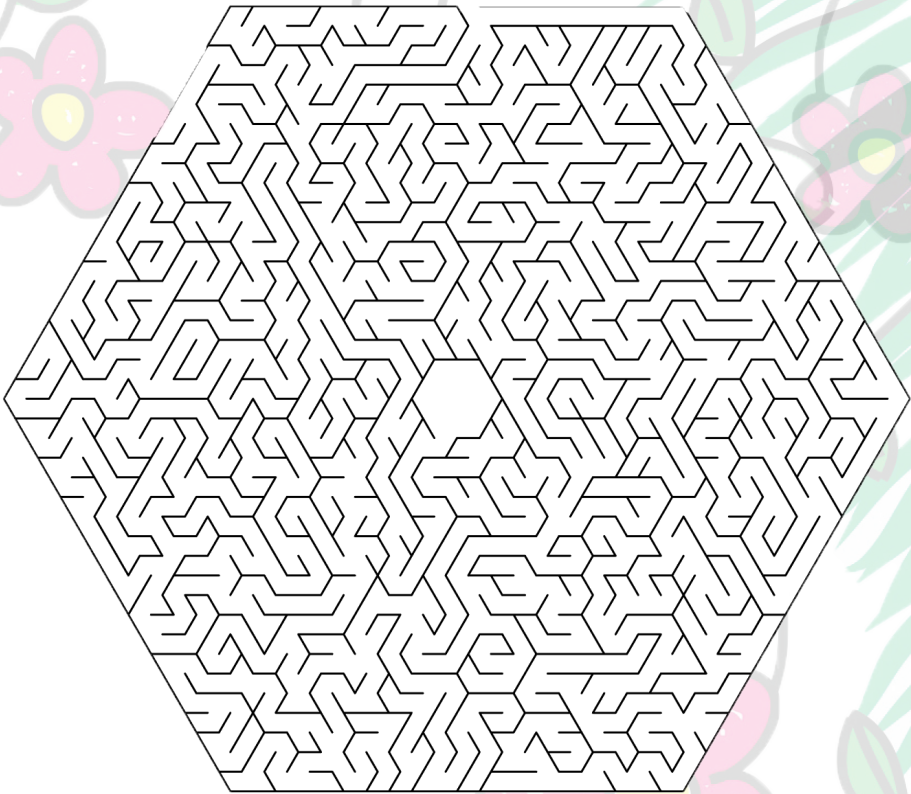
20 full-time positions

Serve 10.5 months starting **August 16th, 2017**

Applicants must be 18-25 with a HS Diploma or GED



www.communityyouthservices.org • (360)918-7830 • kswilley@communityyouthservices.org



Word Scramble

1. sbtlflao
2. samsu
3. okmn
4. oninu
5. udnaogatri

Word Search

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

SCHOLAR
GRADUATION
SOFTBALL
MONK
ASSMU
CAREER
SUMMER
CHEMISTRY
PRESENTATION
SENIOR

Sudoku

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

EST. 1986

ITALIAN

MECONI'S

SUBS

Locally Owned Since 1986

We Make Our Bread Fresh Daily

Authentic Philly Cheesesteaks

Lacey5221 Lacey Blvd. SE360.459.0213

Olympia1018 Capitol Way S.360.534.0240

Tumwater111 Tumwater Blvd. SE360.528.3292

Hawks Prairie2527 Marvin Rd. NE360.688.7919

Hours:
Mon-Fri 10-8PM
Sat 10-7PM





www.meconissubs.com





VIEW THE NEW

Photo Gallery

on belltowersmu.org