



# THE BELLTOWER

SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY MONTHLY STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Freshmen get ready for their career at Saint Martin's University.

Photo by Aaron Barna

## First generation students feel added pressure

Caley Wiseman  
Staff Writer

Being the first generation in a family to advance to a higher education can be both an exciting and beneficial experience.

A first generation student is one whose parents have not attained a higher education or college degree. Because the student has little or no family collegiate experience, the student can earn first generation scholarships and go where no one in their family has gone before.

According to the counseling center at the University of Illinois, "First generation students tend to come from working class families from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds. While certainly immersed in an exciting experience, some first-generation college students receive less support from their families while attending college. Their families may not understand the demands of college work. Students may also feel added responsibility from families to be 'the one who succeeds' in college. This may increase the pressure the individual already experiences as a new student."

Even though the experience is new, it can be a rewarding one. See 1ST GEN, Page B2

## SMU has record first year class in 2010

Marissa Edwards  
Staff Writer

Just two students short of being the largest freshman class in Saint Martin's history, SMU does have the largest first year students, meaning both freshmen and transfer students, with a total of 385.

"The school is growing. Students like new things and want to be a part of it," says Admissions Counselor, Kellen Willis.

"I chose to come to Saint Martin's University because

it has a positive atmosphere and it's not too far away from home," says first year student, Dillion Linhart.

Willis explained how it's more common to see students attend school no more than six hours away from their home.

There is also a trend of students who have attended a two-year institute who then transfer to a four-year university.

Students are also realizing that, during the economic downfall, they're still able to

afford a private education for a reasonable price. Saint Martin's is listed as the third least expensive private university in the Pacific Northwest.

"The more the name of the school is out there, the more interest people gain to come check it out," Willis said.

Each year the university has over a thousand visitors. These include school groups, local and out of state students.

However, with a growth of the university comes the issue of space. With the relatively new addition of Par-

sons Hall, there are a dozen triplet rooms.

"It's fun in a triple because there is always something going on in the room," says first year student, Julie Sanders. "The downfall is having to share a closet."

All the people placed in triplets volunteered to be in those living arrangements.

Other struggles include the addition of more first-year courses, hiring more staff, and a crowded dining hall during certain times of the day.

## Students get their hands dirty at SMU garden

Elena Larson  
Staff Writer

There has been a new addition made to the Saint Martin's campus with continuous participation by Head of the Sustainability Committee Irina Gendleman, students Amanda Hatman and Rosemary Cziches, and effort of volunteers to make the idea of a garden actually happen.

The garden, located in front of the cafeteria, includes tomatoes, potatoes, beans, bok choy, sunflowers, raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, currants, on-

ions, carrots, and a shed.

SMU is the perfect setting for an educational garden, with its oasis of green, plenty of sun to nourish vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

The garden shows environmental stewardship, community, and labor.

It was with a great pleasure that Bon Appétit was willing to share their herb garden space in front of the kitchen area for this project. The two collaborate to save by sharing resources. This makes it so the garden is easily accessible and highly vis-

ible for students.

Some professors even be integrate the garden into their Freshmen Seminar classes.

The garden, which was in its planning stages since January and landscaped since May, was officially opened on June 2, 2010. However, the garden is by no means finished.

"The garden will continue to be improved on," says Gendleman.

Students have already reaped the benefits of garden involvement.

See GARDEN, Page D2

Photo By: Ninalynn Benitez



Walter Kassil and Rosemary Cziches help in the SMU garden.

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# Saint Martin’s welcomes new Health Center

**Krinda Carlson**  
*Staff Writer*

A major addition to the Saint Martin’s campus is that of the Health Center in Burton Hall, which is open to all students and staff on campus during the normal business hours throughout the week.

Though the Health Center exists to provide care and remedies for a variety of concerns, including colds, flu, and certain sports-related injuries, emergent issues or conditions are not treated at the Health Center.

Although the staff of this new facility do not provide x-rays, sight and hearing tests or dental care, they can write prescriptions for medications to be acquired elsewhere (no drugs or medications are kept in Health Center), or order tests such as bone scans or MRIs to be done at a hospital or another clinic.

If you are a full-time undergraduate student, a \$51.00 fee is charged per semester for the use of the clinic anytime you may need throughout the semester, and besides that fee there is no additional charge regardless of number of visits.

# Memories fill the empty halls of Baran

**Krinda Carlson**  
*Staff Writer*

If you haven’t noticed, there’s a big empty building on campus: Baran Hall. Though this now remains a dormant dormitory, it still houses ghosts of past memories and marks from the thousands who have called it “home” over the past fifty years.

Named after Saint Martin’s University’s first abbot, Abbot Oswald Baran, the building first opened its doors to students in 1957. These students were witnesses to so many rich events occurring in history and culture over the span of this time: Alaska and Hawaii’s admittance to the States, the Vietnam War, the Beatles’ explosion onto the music scene, the Apollo Project ending with man landing on the moon, the release of George Lucas’ “Star Wars,” and the punk rock movement.

We can only imagine the discussions occurring in the Great Room of Baran Hall about current events, the sounds of “Twist and Shout” and “A Hard Day’s Night” echoing down the hall, and the psychedelic posters promoting peace tacked up on doors. Since then, Baran Hall has been freshman student’s first introduction to life on Saint Martin’s University’s campus – until now.

After Spring Semester 2009, Baran Hall closed for renovation.

# A letter to the residents

**Emilie Schnabel**  
*Staff Writer*

Dear Resident,

After three years of empirical research on living in the residence halls, I am ready for the first time to unveil my findings: “dorm” life is essentially what you make of it. Either during your college search or freshman orientation, or perhaps both, you received the official Saint Martin’s tour—and you may have even received it from me. If I led your tour I probably pointed out the wonders of the amazing automatic door in the front of Parsons, as well as the late night coffee stand. I told you where to go when you got locked out or wanted to check out a board game (the Residence Life office), and I pointed out the wonders of the flat screen television, fireplace, and community kitchen. I may have made you groan when I showed you the laundry room and pointed out the convenient folding table, and you probably did not understand how you were going to fit two people and all of their belongings into one room. Living on campus, there were a lot of things I had to learn the hard way, but maybe I can spare you some of the trouble:

- 1—Watch your flex cash and don’t waste it all on candy and bottled beverages. I never had enough. That flat of top ramen you bought at Fred Meyer Night may have seemed like a great idea when you bought it, but is gets old pretty quickly when it is all you have left to eat for breakfast and lunch at the end of the semester.
- 2—Clean all perishable items out of your fridge over winter break. Otherwise, you will regret it.
- 3—On the subject of food, while you may enjoy watching the process of your old cereal milk caramelize on the desk, your roommate most assuredly does not.
- 4—When doing your laundry, keep in mind that everybody else thought it would be a good idea to wait until Saturday to do it, too. Also, rush-hour laundry is one of the things that can turn your perfectly amiable next-door-neighbor into your worst enemy. Get to your load a minute before the cycle is over, not fifteen minutes after, and you won’t return to find all of your clothing dumped in a giant heap on that oh-so-convenient folding table for all the world to see.
- 5—In the freshmen halls, quiet hours do not exist—no matter how hard your Resident Assistant tries to enforce them.
- 6—You probably don’t need everything you brought with you (but never admit that to anyone).
- 7—It can be very difficult to balance a social life and actually do your homework, but I promise you it is possible. Skipping a late-night video game or baking session every couple of days can seem like a hassle, but you will thank yourself toward the end of the semester when you aren’t flunking or freaking out trying to figure out how on earth you are going to pass your final.
- 8—The official speech may sound cheesy, but please do take advantage of the student resources on campus such as (but definitely not limited to) the Health Center, the Learning and Writing Center, the Counseling and Wellness Center, the Recreation Center, and also the Hospitality Center in Campus Ministry. I have worked with and used all of these resources in some capacity or other, and I can guarantee that they have helped my stay here at Saint Martin’s.
- 9—The Dollar Tree is your friend.
- 10—Recklessly creating holes and ruining the plaster on your walls may seem like an easy fix, but all the white toothpaste or drywall spackle in the world cannot prevent the re-texturing and re-painting that you will probably have to foot the bill for at the end of the year.

Living on campus can seem to some students as hectic, loud, chaotic, bustling, and still really lonely or overwhelmingly social, while others take to it naturally. Try to remember that balance, in addition to sleep, is good, and sometimes asking for help is necessary.

Sincerely,

A Senior

Currently, the freshmen students who live on campus are housed in Parsons Hall.

Previous Director of Housing and Residence life, Andrew Aslaksen explained, “The incoming freshmen students told us they would have preferred to be in full buildings to create a better sense of community,” so the housing department strove to place the entire incoming class in connecting wings in Parsons.

Despite the aging conditions of Baran Hall, most students look back on the dorm with fondness.

Amber Graves and Sivie Simpson, sophomores and roommates, were residents of Baran for the 2008-2009 school year, and both reminisced, “We miss Baran!” Simpson laughed, “There was something kinda

nice about living in a junky place. You were bonded by the grossness,” such as broken windows and “growling” heater pipes.

Graves took up the story by telling about the first fire-drill her class had in Baran, Fall 2008: “Two girls were taking showers when the fire alarm went off...they had to rush to their rooms in towels and throw on whatever clothing they could grab quickly. They were all soaking standing outside afterwards!”

Events like this happened all the time in Baran Hall.

Graduate Lucas Leon, who lived in Baran during the 2006-2007 school term, enjoyed the fact that doors always seemed to be open “all the time and at any time” his freshman year in Baran, so it made him feel as if he was

always in the loop. “Everyone was so crazy and childish,” he said, “and I really wouldn’t have had it any other way.”

Beach explained that, on the guy’s floor, people would pull pranks on RAs, jump off the walls – literally, and even remove bathroom stall doors! Others recounted stories of water fights and food-wars in the halls of Baran. Sure, consequences followed, but Beach says, “You know, it was college.”

Students endured the good and bad together, and, despite complaints, in the end Graves and Simpson sum it up, “It’s just something about Baran.”

The dorm will open again next fall to add countless more marks to its collection of fifty-plus years of memories which haunt the building’s hallways.





Photos by Ninalynn Benitez

## Saint Martin's continues to grow

### *Students have a positive response to new fitness center*

**Krinda Carlson**  
Staff Writer

After opening its doors, the Charneski Recreation and Fitness Center on the Saint Martin's University campus is a place of constant activity.

The 36,000 square foot facility does not just offer a place to work out individually, but provides group classes and training. Cardio, pilates, and yoga classes are held throughout the week for anyone who wishes to sign up and participate.

Becky Traber, who is also a student working on her Masters in Teaching at Saint Martin's, leads a power yoga class every Monday night in the dance studio of the center. She taught the class last year in the Burton addition and, though she says she misses the fireplace and cozy environment of Burton, she is enjoying the increased space. The ability to fit more attendees in her class is a plus.

"The students here are a nice

group of people to work with," Traber says. "On a personal level, working out at the new facility is like night and day. Before [in the old weight room], it was like working out in someone's garage."

Junior Jennifer Johnson works at the fitness center when she is not training for track and field or in class. She commented on how much cleaner the new facility stays.

"We clean everyday and wipe down all the equipment a lot...we mop the gym at least once or twice a week."

The access to this gym, with three new basketball courts, is something that former baseball player Marshal Nelson appreciates about the new facilities. He attends the open gym nights and likes the fact that this allows him to interact with more people.

"The indoor track has helped also," Nelson says. "I run a lot on it," and it's available during open hours for all students and faculty. Graduated track runner, Connor Flaherty, expressed

similar thoughts about the track.

"I really like the indoor track because I run on it every time I'm here." No more battling the rain or cold to get a run in. Flaherty did mention, "We need better quality hand weights," but other than that, the new facilities have been a plus – especially, "all the space!"

Along with more space, there are a few more rules to be aware of: some of these include no profanity or fighting, appropriate attire such as keeping shirts on and not wearing open toed shoes. Also, entrance is granted through scanning student ID cards, so they are important to carry when going to use the facilities.

"Always having the card key can be tough," Nelson claimed, but other than trying to get in the habit of bringing it around, the new rules have not been hard to adjust to.

As the newest addition to the campus, the Recreation and Fitness center has gathered a great response from the students and staff. On a daily basis it

draws together those training for athletics and others coming for the pleasure of physical activity.

Flaherty agreed that, since the center has opened, "I see more people than normal." It provides an environment to not only exercise, but also a place to connect and interact with other members of the Saint Martin's community.

## Hours:

Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Saturday  
12:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Sunday  
1:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

## 1ST GEN, From Cover

ence can be life changing in a positive way, being the first generation to go to college can have some negative side effects. It can add pressure of responsibility, give the students doubts in their academic ability, be overwhelming, or make the student feel like an outsider.

Many first generation students are eager to advance in their education but are afraid of leaving home. The most common question first generation students ask themselves when they first begin college (according to a random survey of students at Saint Martin's) is: "Am I cut out to be a college student?"

Ninety percent of the first generation students surveyed also agreed that when they began college here at Saint Martin's, they felt an overwhelming wave of added pressure to be perfect in every aspect of college.

"Starting college as a first generation student has been a huge financial burden. Because I come from a working class family, I was expected to

help pay for my education. I'm on an athletic scholarship, but I still have to keep a job outside of school, practice and homework," one student claimed.

Out of the 50 surveyed students, 29 said they felt partially guilty for having the opportunity to attend college and earn a higher degree of education while their family members didn't have the same opportunities.

46 out of the 50 students also said they were ashamed and embarrassed of their socioeconomic status and admitted to having told a few lies about both their family and their own backgrounds.

"Yes, I have told a few lies and exaggerated on how wealthy or educated my family is so I would feel more accepted at this institution," one student said.

While many first generation students struggle internally with the responsibility of being the first to go to college, the University of Illinois Counseling Center has some suggestions which might help with the transition.

First, it is important to get in-

involved around campus and integrate with other students to ease into the adjustment.

Second, it is important to communicate with others what you are feeling so you are able to develop your own opinions and become more individualized.

Finally, it is important to utilize your resources and maintain a balance in your college career. Take advantage of mentoring and other office pro-

grams, which can assist you in transitioning from high school to college. Also, make sure you have a balance between work and fun time because you don't want to burn out and overwhelm yourself your first year in college.

First generation students shouldn't feel burdened or overwhelmed or scared in college. It is an honor and privilege to be the first in the family to earn a higher education.

## Career Services

- Online job search – [Saints4Hire](http://Saints4Hire) [www.stmartin.edu/careercenter](http://www.stmartin.edu/careercenter) and click the *student* links. to the database
- Resume and Cover Letter preparation
- Annual Career and Internship Fair (April 13, 2010) and Fall Accounting/Engineering Career Fair
- Separate career events as requested by clubs (Etiquette dinner - March 2, mock interview demo, resume/interview workshops, employer panels - e.g. State Farm on Feb. 18)
- Interview Tips
- Help with job search
- Career exploration tools - MyPlan includes 4 assessments (personality, skills, values and interests)
- Information Interview assistance and referrals
- Alumni Mentors
- Employer Directories (online on [Saints4Hire](http://Saints4Hire), and previous year's Career Fair book)
- Resource Library
- Handouts on "What Can I Do with This Major?"

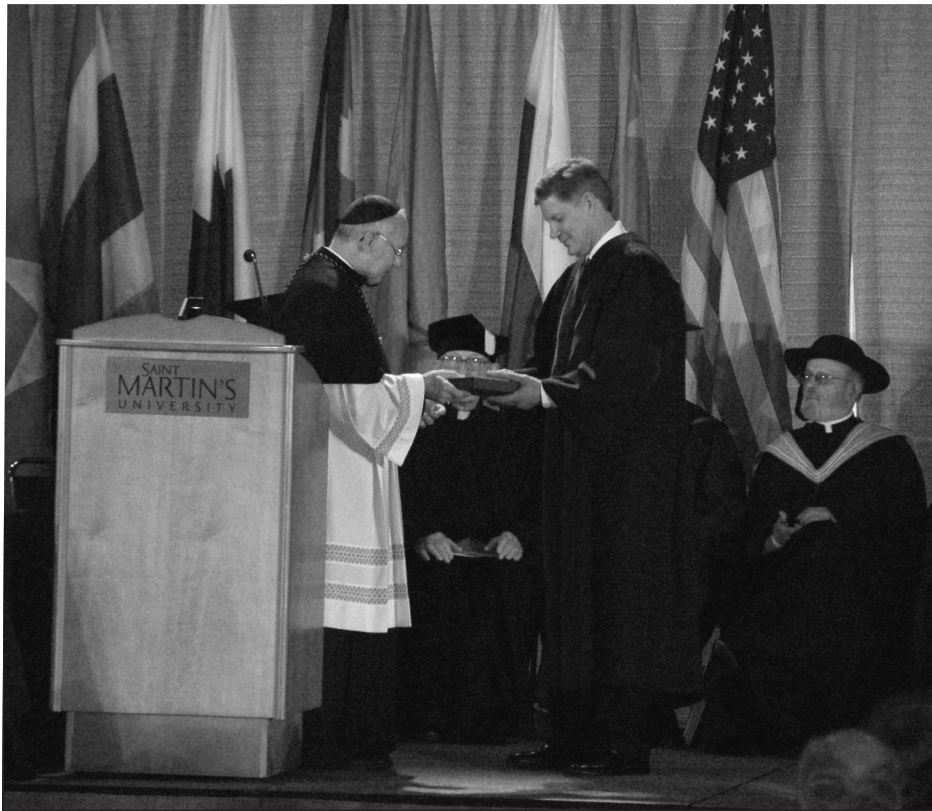
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## Saint Martin's welcomes President Heynderickx



Dr. Heynderickx at his inauguration in 2009.

*Photos by Ninalynn Benitez*

### Quinton Mitchell Staff Writer

After the departure of Douglas Asolfi from Saint Martin's University and the unfortunate passing of Brian Johnston, the acquired president elect over the summer of 2009, it seemed that Saint Martin's had taken another mental and spiritual blow that many felt would be hard to recover from.

Fortunately for a dedicated board of trustees, willing administration and faculty, and a bubbling eagerness from the students, Dr. Roy Heynderickx was carefully selected to take the reins of the small institution.

Dr. Heynderickx is a native of the Pacific Northwest. He started his education in his youth in Mount Angel, Oregon and then was educated at the University of Oregon, where he obtained a degree in Accounting.

He traveled up 1-5, and landed a job with the respected University of Portland.

While on the financial staff, he earned a masters. Not stopping with his education, he returned to the University of Oregon and received his doctorate. He stated that while at the University of Portland, he learned to love the workings of small college environments.

The new president has a calm and personable demeanor about his movements and mannerisms. He stated that he likes to adhere to the philosophy of "servant leadership." He wishes to be actively involved in all affairs of Saint Martin's but wants his actions to serve the communal good of faculty, students, staff, and alumni.

He had finished the Winning Spirit Campaign, which was responsible for the improvements to Saint Martin's such as the new track and recreation center.

He also immediately hired a new Vice President of Academic Affairs,

Dr. Joseph Bessie.

Dr. Heynderickx added that he "doesn't want Saint Martin's to be the best kept secret in the Northwest." He is working hard to further our schools reputation.

He stated that for Saint Martin's University he has a "crisp vision," a clear mission that will not change the essence of Saint Martin's, but help it grow from a locally known institution to prominence on the regional and national level.

Points were brought up on his stance on diversity in higher education. He replied by stating that "the diversity at Saint Martin's is very high in comparison to other schools in Northwest."

He stated that he wants to improve diversity by using recruitment, advertising, and posting job positions for qualified individuals of diverse backgrounds.

Heynderickx also stated that new application submission is up 36 percent.

He also wants to increase business partnerships and donations, though it will be hard for Saint Martin's to keep tuition low in order to stay on par with other universities.

He said that Saint Martin's is a "low cost, high quality" institution. He does want to start a potential inquiry into reforming our tuition system so not only do incoming students get lucrative packages but upperclassmen who demonstrate excellence in the classroom.

In comparison to his former employer, the University of San Diego, he stated that their facilities were much larger and up-to-date. He wants to see more student traffic channeled to new state-of-the-art buildings such as the STEM, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Hall.

Better facilities give students the feeling of pride that they belong to a prestigious academic institution.

## Four new deans hired to the colleges of SMU

Emilie Schnabel  
Staff Writer

### Dr. Richard Beer Dean of the College of Business



Richard Beer, Ph. D., and new Dean of the College of Business, is new to Saint Martin's. Past appointments include the University of San Francisco and the Haas School of Business at U.C. Berkeley. Dr. Beer is very proud to be a dean at Saint Martin's University.

"At larger universities, deans tend to become very isolated with no connection to the student body, and in many cases, not even with the faculty. I believe the size of Saint Martin's and the collegial spirit I have found here allows me to stay connected with all constituents – students, faculty, and staff – on a daily level."

Dr. Beer is interested in expanding and developing international partnership with Saint Martin's, looking closer at general management offerings.

"The new organizational structure will create a focal point for students interested in pursuing a professional management career."

### Dr. Eric Apfelstadt Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Eric Apfelstadt, Ph. D., has served as a Dean at both Loyola University Chicago and Santa Clara University. This year at Saint Martin's, Dr. Apfelstadt would like to start a new phase in shaping the general education at Saint Martin's University. Dr. Apfelstadt.

Dr. Apfelstadt has developed the ability to work positively with his colleagues for the sake of students, and in order to do so has served in several different leadership positions. Dr. Apfelstadt explained that examining the General Education foundation will not distract from any issues that are currently being discussed, but a healthy process of strategic planning and assessment of programs will allow the university to see better where its own strengths and weaknesses lie, and this can only be positive.

Dr. Apfelstadt has worked in Catholic higher education for over a quarter century.

"Fundamentally, I believe in the ethos of the enterprise, and in the effects I've seen both on students and in the community on which the education is embedded. It's been said that it involves a conversation about the world, our place in it, God's work in the world, and our relationship with God. I think one could do much worse than spend one's career in this environment."

### Dr. Joyce Westgard Dean of Education



Unlike the other deans, Dr. Joyce Westgard is not new to Saint Martin's. Westgard served as the Dean of Education before the graduate school of counseling and the school of education joined together to become the College of Education and Professional Psychology. Having worked at Saint Martin's for several years, Westgard was asked what the benefits and drawbacks of forming this new college would be to the students at SMU.

"I believe the change will add to the opportunities and future growth in these programs. We are already discussing some international partnerships, some new graduate courses and joint programs. I really am excited about the possibilities."

Westgard is most looking forward to bringing the unique, and yet similar, programs together to build even more opportunities and experiences for students. She loves working at Saint Martin's because of the supportive environment.

Over the next year, Joyce would like to tell the world about Saint Martin's and the programs it provides.

### Dr. Zella Kahn-Jetter Dean of the College of Engineering

Zella Kahn-Jetter, Ph.D. began work at Saint Martin's in January of 2011. Dr. Kahn-Jetter replaced Dr. Anthony De Sam Lazaro who stepped down last fall. She is looking forward to meeting and working with everyone at SMU, and she is a strong believer in integrating service projects into the curriculum.

"Transforming the Division of Engineering into a School of Engineering is a reflection of the commitment of the university in its mission. It also represents the broad nature of the programs in the university—both on the undergraduate and graduate levels."

Dr. Kahn-Jetter's goals for the year relate to providing students with the best possible education and educational experiences in obtaining their engineering degrees.





# Juan Flores reaches out to local schools in part of university's extension plan

**Emilie Schnabel**  
*Staff Writer*

Juan Flores was recently named Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services. This title has Flores overseeing Admissions and what had until recently been known as Financial Aid and Student Accounts, which he took on in August of 2010.

As his role at Saint Martin's University has expanded, so has his welcoming spirit and attempts to stay connected with the Saint Martin's student body. Flores' main goal is to meet the students' needs as best he can, but does say that most of his student interaction comes from dealing with students' financial concerns.

In order to combat this, Flores makes a concerted attempt to attend as many student functions as possible, including athletic events and hanging out in the dining halls. Flores understands that behind every concern is an individual student.

In order to reduce students' anxiety while attending school, Flores has made clear that a future goal of Saint Martin's will be to "help students develop financial literacy—[learn how to] address costs and manage money for both the short and the long term." SMU is not a school which can just

give out a lot of money, but Flores believes that SMU can be creative in helping students meet their financial obligations.

Flores has served in the past as the Assistant Head of Bosque School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Most of Flores' background has been in teaching, school administration, and educational research. Flores also has experience in Administration.

When asked what his favorite thing about coming to Saint Martin's University was, Flores said his focus was on the individual students and helping shape their potential.

"The philosophy is that this is a school where students with potential can come, and we build on that. The students may not be polished when they arrive but SMU builds on that. The conversations I have with students around SMU are very similar with those I have had with students at more competitive settings," Flores said. "In Admissions we are not hung up on SAT or ACT scores or grades, but take a look at everything a student brings to the table. This is a school that is in some ways a hidden gem, not resting on its reputation but on the success of its students."

SMU is proud of its Catholic, Benedictine heritage and mission

statement, and so is Flores.

"It is very liberating to be able to say you are doing something because it is a Catholic or Benedictine thing to do. I've acted [on these convictions] in other situations, but could not say that [my actions were motivated] because of religious values. Now, this can be a guide. It is great for students to go to Mass, to Bucket, and to the Rosary, but the fact that students help each other out here, isn't that what it really means to be Christian?"

As Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services, Flores must recruit students of all religious backgrounds. When asked how he could sell a Catholic, Benedictine school to students who are not Catholic, and perhaps have no religious background, Flores stated that he works hard to assure prospective students that this label is supported by how everyone in the community acts to help each other, and not just the blatant religious services offered.

SMU has expanded rapidly over the past decade, with this year hosting the second-largest freshman class.

In order to continue to grow the population, Flores says that more interested students need to be found.

Flores is working on making sure that all of the local schools are

reached, as well as students in communities far away. He has a refreshing take: Flores does not believe there is one best school, but instead there is a right school for every student. He is developing new ways to continue to expand SMU's exposure.

Admissions continues to offer daily tours, Spirit days on the weekend once a month, Spirit Fridays for transfer students, Accepted Student Receptions where merit scholarships are also recognized, and opportunities to stay in the residence halls even when official overnight visits are not scheduled.

Due to the large student population from Hawaii, there is also an Accepted Student Reception in Honolulu.

As a parting note, Flores would like to encourage students to get to the Student Financial Services office as quickly as possible when they have a financial concern.

"Get to the office early so there is a lot of time to address your needs, and not interfere with the registration process," Flores said.

Student Financial Services and Admissions are open to suggestions. They want to know how to best help students, and remain student-need focused.

## A student account of the Russian Language Study Tour

**Brian Caughlan**  
*Guest Writer*

Six students from Saint Martin's University journeyed to Russia last summer in the 2010 Russian Language Study Tour.

The biennial study tour, sponsored by The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota, is designed for college students and the public who are beginning their study of the Russian language.

When I signed on for the trip to Russia, I only had reasons to leave. However, when it came time to go, I found myself finding only reasons to stay in America. I had never travelled before, and was taking an approach of both caution and fear as the date neared. I kept asking myself what it would be like, and in doing so, I found myself coming up with dozens of answers that never became true.

I knew next to nothing about Russia before I left, and that is why I believe my experience was so extraordinary. I had no concept of the language, culture, or even stereotypes. I was placing myself in a raw powerful experience that, in the end, was completely worth it.

The trip was gratifying in a sense that a rare and beautiful thing happened. When I left America with 15

strangers, I was doubtful of what would come of us. However, when we returned, we had formed a family.

Six weeks was perfect for me; it was long enough to truly establish a firm friendship, and short enough to not grow weary of anyone or anything.

I was most nervous of the people I would meet. I was afraid of what they would be like.

I have never been much of a dependent person, and going to a country with no sense of the language, I found myself dependent upon the locals for even simple tasks. However,

my fears were unfounded as the locals were kind and receiving from the moment I stepped off the train platform in Petrozavodsk and into a small crowd of students welcoming me. All the students we met were patient, outgoing, and understanding. They were constantly asking questions, and providing us with opportunities to really experience the life and culture of Russia. Outside of our classes they were infinitely patient with us as they instructed us on how not to butcher the language. It could not have been easy to listen to us mangle their language, and yet they were able only to give us

positive feedback as we struggled to learn as much as we could in the short time we were there.

In the six weeks our group was in Russia, we were given a full schedule of classes and lectures each weekday that kept us busy and provided a firm base for future exploration of the language and culture. Having no previous experience and a poor language aptitude, I struggled through pronunciations, yet I am still thirsty upon my return to keep learning.

In the mornings we had class to learn the basics of what we could, then in the afternoon we had lectures of the local infrastructure, culture, history, and other interesting topics. Our schedule was consistently filled, and I found myself grateful to be interjected so fiercely because of little prior knowledge of Russia I possessed. Why not try and keep myself as busy as I could while I was there? It turned out to be a perfect balance that I was so fortunate to have been a part of.

**For information about studying abroad, contact Brenda Burns in room 430!**



Russian Language Study Tour group enjoy their time abroad.

Photo by Jeff Birkenstein



# Saint Martin’s University offers podcasts through Moodle

Emilie Schnabel  
Staff Writer

Saint Martin’s University has joined the long list of schools, which have already made their lectures, videos, and other teaching tools available via iTunes U, or iTunes University.

iTunes U is another part of the wildly popular free iTunes program released by Apple®.

iTunes is a program which allows people to upload and store music into a library on their computer, purchase music, television shows, podcasts, and even movies from the iTunes store, and sync this data with ipods, ipads, mobile devices, and other mp3 devices.

Now, with iTunes U, iTunes is allowing universities to create their own free pages and upload content from lectures, presentations, and even video courses which students can access at their own leisure on computers,

mp3 devices, and smartphones.

According to the iTunes store, “iTunes U brings the power of the iTunes Store to education, making it simple to distribute information to your students and faculty or to life-long learners all over the world. With an iTunes U site, your institution has a single home for all the digital content created or curated by educators, which can then be easily downloaded and viewed on any Mac, PC, iPod, or iPhone.”

More than 800 universities have active iTunes U sites. About half of these institutions, including Stanford, Yale, MIT, Oxford, and UC Berkeley, distribute their content publicly on the iTunes Store.

Institutions have the choice of making their content available to the public, to anyone with an iTunes account, or to restrict access to their content to only students and staff. With the

availability of free public content, students from around the world are able to supplement their own education by browsing other universities’ content, like the “Yale open courses” video lecture series.

The “Beyond Campus” feature on iTunes U also includes content from such places as The Royal Opera House, various museums from around the world, and even the Library of Congress.

While iTunes U cannot confer a degree, it does make a wealth of knowledge from hundreds of different sources accessible to the general public.

Saint Martin’s University’s content is not available to the public in iTunes U, but through the Moodle website. Saint Martin's students are able to access the SMU podcast and subscribe to it in iTunes. There is a link to the podcast in the bottom left of the Moo-

dle homepage. There are currently three lectures from the Harvey Lecture Series available for download.

Irina Gendelman, Instructional Design, headed up the project.

“I set up iTunes U and worked with Ethink Education to integrate it with Moodle,” she explained.

Amanda Hatman, a junior who is involved with the project describes her role as filming and editing various lectures and functions on campus.

“One of the primary purposes of supplying the content of lectures and functions that take place on campus is to accommodate those students who for some reason or another, whether they be sick or experiencing a personal/family emergency, could not attend an event they were interested in or required to attend for their class(es),” said Hatman. “It is by no means a replacement for actually attending, but a possible secondary substitution.”

# Things that don’t make sense on campus

Jake Kinderman  
Staff Writer

**1) PEOPLE WHO TAKE THE ELEVATOR FROM THE FIRST FLOOR TO THE SECOND FLOOR**

There is an elite secret society of students at SMU. No one knows their name, no one knows when they formed, and no one knows who their leader is. Their purpose? To define a new level of laziness and sloth by taking the elevator from the first floor to the second! This blows me away. I applaud those peoples’ dedication to completely avoiding any physical exertion whatsoever. I wonder what the decision making process is: “Should I walk up the short staircase to be more time efficient and even perhaps burn off that extra carb that I gained from eating hot pockets and six packs of Easter Peeps last night? Nope, I’ll take the elevator and get a doughnut from the cafeteria while I wait.” Take the stairs! You know who you are.

**2) NO FOREIGN LANGUAGE MINOR**

Why doesn’t Saint Martin’s have a language minor? Average Americans are already a step behind European nations and other cultures in our linguistics, and we admire people in our country who are multilingual. I know many people on campus who are proficient in more than one language, and they wish they could minor in that language because it is a very impressive attribute when applying for a future job. SMU already has a dedicated and talented language faculty that is more than qualified. A language minor would show that our students not only speak the language, but have studied its culture in an academic setting. I believe SMU should offer a language minor as soon as possible.

**3) REC IRREGULARS**

The SMU rec center regulars know that there are the people who show up sporadically to exercise, but if you are a true regular you know that these people do not actually exercise. They are just pretending. I’m not sure how many times I have seen some guy walk in with cut-off jean shorts, a tank top and a can of Red Bull to do two sets of bicep curls, look at themselves in the mirror and then

leave. Other entertaining characters include people you can overhear discussing how fast they ran a mile on the indoor track because they have yet to make the connection that the indoor track is considerably smaller than a standard outdoor track. Sorry people, it’s nine laps for a mile, not four. My favorite is the really skinny guy who comes in with fingerless gloves, discovers he is too weak to lift every weight in the room, so he resorts do doing ten-million sit ups and then lifts his shirt to check his abs in the mirror. News flash, skinny guy, you don’t have “washboard abs,” you are malnourished. Now if you genuinely want to get in better shape, I’m afraid you have to come in more often then every three weeks and do something for more than ten minutes. Most importantly, stop flexing in the mirror. You look foolish.

**4) PARKING TICKETS**

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

**5) CAFETERIA FOOD**

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

# Sustainability Committee plans for new engineering building

Jesse Lamp  
Staff Writer

“As Saint Martin’s University prepares to be a leader among higher education institutions in the movement toward a more sustainable future...” began S. Richard Fedrizzi, President, CEO, and founding chairman of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in Washington, D.C. in his letter of support to Dr. Zella Kahn-Jetter, Dean of the School of Engineering,

and Saint Martin’s University.

His words are strong and complimentary, and they do not come without good cause.

With a goal to break ground as soon as the summer of 2011, SMU will soon be transformed by the addition of a new engineering building focused on sustainability.

The USGBC has a sustainability rating system known as the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED rating. These rat-

ings range from the lowest level, ‘certified,’ up through silver, gold, and finally platinum as the most sustainable and eco-friendly.

The goal for the new building, say Dr. Kahn-Jetter and Facilities Director Alan Tyler, is to reach platinum. This rating would surpass both the Charneski Recreation Center, with its ‘certified’ rating, and Harned Hall, which is thought ‘silver’ project, but is still pending a final rating.

Both Tyler and Kahn-Jetter also

stress the idea that the new engineering building will be a “living experiment.”

The building itself will be a tool for teaching.

Solar panels are typically mounted in a stationary position, but the new building will include panels with adjustable angles so that they can be adjusted to the angle of the sun as the



## Cutters Point offers a discount and place to study

**Trinity Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

Cutters Point on Lacey Boulevard is a popular study/hang out place for many Saint Martin's students. Whether you're a gas-guzzling commuter or a dorm rat, the "hand crafted coffee" offered at Cutters Point is a much welcomed legal narcotic for the drained college student. However, there's more than the coffee to experience at this shop.

When potential patrons enter through the glass door covered in enticing pictures of some of the sexiest drinks ever made, their senses are assaulted by the salacious aromas of the many flavors of syrups, milk, cream, and of course straight coffee that CP offers. Also awaiting them are the pastries lining the glass case conveniently placed directly next to the cash register, where poor college students may overspend their allowances for a tasty compliment to their coffee.

When the weather turns nippy, a warm fake fire burns in the fireplace with two comfy chairs placed in front which customers are always vying for. Across from the gas fireplace is a raised area with tables and chairs, and near the back of the store is a secluded area that I affectionately call the "hermit cave" for quiet study, business calls or for people who don't like other people.

The general feel of the store is simple, yet classy, and it retains a peaceful and welcoming atmosphere that even new customers notice. But this wouldn't be possible without the open and friendly baristas. I call them "open" because, being baristas, they

are skilled in the art of chit chat, however, often chit chat can be mind numbing and slightly awkward, but my experience with the Cutters Point baristas has been continuously pleasant. They are willing to share personal stories, and actually remember you when you come back; such as what you've told them about yourself in the past and your drink of choice, even if one goes to Europe and returns after six months has passed.

Being a college student myself, I understand the need to find places off campus that have free wifi, because God forbid should we go somewhere without it and have nothing to do but read a book or newspaper. I say this tongue-in-cheek of course, especially since you're reading my article. But Cutters Point does have free wireless internet, so if you don't have an iPhone, you can come here with your laptop and log on to Facebook.

The food is strikingly similar to Starbucks and not as varied, but the baristas always offer to heat the pastries or muffins for you, warming and softening the bread so if you take a bite before taking a drink, the bread doesn't ball up in your throat and make your eyes water, as this reviewer has experienced on occasion at previously mentioned coffee shops.



CP Baristas offer student discount.

Photo by Ninalynn Benitez

However, Cutters Point doesn't claim to sell "hand crafted food." Their specialty is coffee, and whatever time of day or emotional state one is in, CP coffee has a drink for every mood. If you want to celebrate or nurse your wounds with chocolate, the mochas will both pick you up and massage your cocoa-hungry taste buds. For the latte lovers, the hazelnut latte is my personal favorite. The cappuccinos are a credit to the classic beverage, and for those who are either Mormon or abstain from caffeine for other reasons, don't worry, there's something special at Cutters Point for you too. The frappuccinos and smoothies are thick and creamy, sliding down the palate with balletic grace. The chai is fine, and the fresh brewed coffee can make an addict out of anyone.

But truly, the menu is just one part of the many reasons Cutters Point keeps making lifelong customers. The store, the people, the whole experience is positive and offers students not only a discount, but a welcoming place to come and put your feet up.

### ENGINEERING, From D1

seasons change and so that engineering students can experiment and gain hands-on experience and knowledge about how the angle of the sun's rays effects the power produced by the panels.

There will also be exposed sections of the buildings "guts," says Kahn-Jetter, where students will be able to measure the effects and stresses caused by machines that are operating within the building.

Walkthroughs of the building during construction will allow students to see a real-life schematic in action.

The first goal in funding for the building is \$7 million. Approximately \$4.5 million has already been raised through individual, corporation, and foundational donations.

Plans are to complete the building in time to hold classes by Fall 2012.

Kahn-Jetter is optimistic that this new building will be a valuable recruiting tool, and is a firm symbol of SMU's dedication to its respect of the environment.

"If we're going to be building something, we're not going to be doing it in an irresponsible manner," Kahn-Jetter says about the new building. "It's sort of like we're telling our engineers, you have to be good people, you have to be ethical...but part of that is being responsible to the world, to the Earth."

## Blake Poole named GNAC Player-of-the-Year

**Katie Hawkins**  
Editor-in-Chief

In an extremely close race, senior forward Blake Poole was recently voted Great Northwest Athletic Conference Men's Basketball Player-of-the-Year. Nominated along with Central Washington University's guard, Jamar Berry, and University of Alaska Fairbanks forward, Parrish West, Poole had just enough ballot points to make him number one.

Poole finished the season as the GNAC's top rebounder (averaging 11.8), fourth leading scorer (averaging 19.2), sixth in steals (1.6), eighth in blocks (.7) and ninth in field goal percentage (55.0). He is also the conference's 10th all-time leading scorer with a career 1,740 points and ranks second rebounding with 1,099.

Poole beat out West, who led the GNAC and NCAA Division II in scoring (27.2 points per game) and Berry who was Central's top scorer (17 points per game). Berry was selected as the GNAC Newcomer-of-the-Year,

See **POOLE**, Page E1



### GARDEN, From Cover

"I have met a lot of people, staff faculty and students that I may have not interacted with normally, great getting outdoors and getting dirty," says Hatman, who has already made mint tea and made dishes with bok coi. "We donated about half of the bok coi to the Thurston County food bank." The garden sees two to three volunteers from the food bank every

week.

Students who want to get involved this year should attend the weekly garden parties. There is always some work to be done, whether it be weeding, painting, or watering, and it always involves food. Students can also contact Irina Gendleman for information.

Watch out for other Sustainability Committee project in the works for



Photos by Ninalynn Benitez

the future, including covered bike racks, outlets for electric cars, and other plans for energy sustainability.

*To learn more about the garden, visit:*

<http://sustainablesaints.blogspot.com>.

For more stories and photos, visit us online at

**SMUBelltowerOnline.**  
**tumblr.com**



## Fox Sports Network or Fear Saints Nation?

Caley Wiseman  
Staff Writer

On January 11, 2011, Fox Sports Network (FSN) aired the second NCAA Division II Great Northwest Athletic Conference men's basketball game: the Saint Martin's Saints versus the Western Oregon Wolves. As soon as word got out that the saints would be on television, the student body literally went crazy. Plans were made to hold the first ever "Cooperstown Campout" which would commence three days before the night of the game.

Students were allowed back on campus on January 9 from winter break and were immediately pitching tents outside of the Marcus Pavilion eagerly waiting the much anticipated game.

"The idea of Cooperstown Campout came from the bus ride back from the Pacific Lutheran game. Cooperstown Campout derives from the famous Duke Krzyzewski Campout," said Assistant Director of Admissions, Kellen Willis. "Basically around 15-20 people were interested and started asking around to see who had tents. Had the snow not hindered the turnout of people, the campout would have been a huge hit."

Thanks to the Dean of Students, Melanie Richardson, more money was allocated to the Spirit Club. This allowed the TUB to buy extra tents and aid the students' wants for the big event.

Even the alumni of Saint Martin's were getting ready for the institution's



Students camp out in Cooperstown for front row seats at the FSN broadcasted game.

Photo by Nick Harvey

big debut. A pre-game alumni get together was held in the Worthington Conference Center where members of the Saint Martin's Alumni Association gathered for drinks, food, and good conversation before the game.

While the students and fans flooded the stands of the Pavilion, the basketball team prepped for their appearance on the court. Even with the pressure of the four FSN cameras in their faces, the Saint's basketball team never faltered.

The Saints brought their 'A' game. Only 7:30 into the contest, the Saints

had the Wolves struggling to keep up with a 30-9 lead. At halftime, the Saints held a lead of 19 points with a score of 41-22. In the second half of the game, the Saints wouldn't allow the Wolves to come any closer than a 13 point difference.

Blake Poole, at the time ranked fourth nationally in rebounds, didn't cease to impress his devoted fans. With a completed 12 out of 16 shots, Blake Poole also snagged a new personal record of 24 rebounds in a single GNAC match. Thanks to his 26 points and 24 rebounds, Poole became

the fourth player in the GNAC history to have a 20-point, 20-rebound game.

Galen Squires connected 5 of 7 three-pointers to add to the Saints successful game. Jeremy Green also added 18 points, Michael Russo had 8 and Brok Pendleton reeled in 7 points and 6 rebounds. Eric Taylor also had a spectacular game with 3 of the Saint's 9 steals.

The Saints, in the end, sailed past the Wolves with a final score of 85-54. Saints fans went home with lost voices and smiles on their faces, proudly wearing red, black, and white.

## "The Belltower" reports for students

Katie Hawkins  
Editor-in-Chief

Philip Graham once said that "journalism is the first rough draft of history." The Belltower, then, acts as Saint Martin's historical record. Because we are a monthly edition, we know that we may not be reporting the news first. However, we believe that reporting the news to the community as thoroughly and accurately as possible is more important than a rushed product.

"The Belltower," like other newspapers started at Saint Martin's in the past began with the goal of bringing the SMU community a snapshot of life at a private, Benedictine university in the Lacey and Olympia area. Unfortunately, the newspapers that surfaced faded out with the class that started them.

However, with a growing student population and interest in journalism on campus, this edition of "The Belltower" plans to continue the paper for many years to come, serving as a constant and reliable source for the SMU community to receive the news.

As a college newspaper that is dependent on the university, we focus

most coverage on campus life. We pursue stories that, above all, reflect the views of students, and not necessarily the official stance of the university. We aim to echo the voices of the student population and to address their concerns. We attempt to choose stories that students would find most newsworthy and significant.

So, since the first edition of "The Martian" in the 1940s to the last edition in the distant future of The Belltower, we strive to report with the highest ethics as we possibly can, describe the events of Saint Martin's University truthfully, and, most importantly, reflect the thoughts of the students.

**Our Mission:** As fellow students at Saint Martin's University, our staff is constantly working to keep you up to date on what is going on around campus, our community, and throughout the world. Our newspaper will provide information that is valuable to our campus and especially to 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.

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

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

"The Belltower" will be switching editing staff in Fall of 2011. Welcome new Editor-in-Chief, Amanda Hatman, and new Managing Editor, Marissa Edwards.

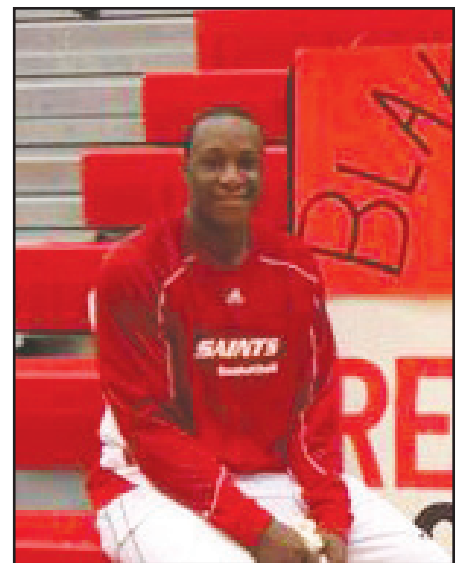


Photo by Kellen Willis

### POOLE, From D2

transferring from Chaminade of the Pac West Conference. West was featured in the Feb. 7 issue of Sports Illustrated for his nation leading average as well as for breaking the 1968 Fairbanks' school record for most points in a game (42) with 43, ironically against SMU. He has also had 10 30-plus-point games.

The Saint's 6'5" forward, however, was still able to pull ahead of the other conference superstars with the most well-rounded statistics.



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