

HILLTOPICS

VOLUME LVII - KINGS OF THE HILL

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VOLUME LVII - KINGS OF THE HILL

HILLTOPICS

2021 - 2022 HILLTOPICS STAFF

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Dynamic Duo



WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR?

Earl D'Souza ('22)

Ricky Conlin – “My favorite time of the year has to be the few weeks before we leave campus on Christmas break, particularly because of all the festive decorations hanging around, and because of the spirit of the season that seems to radiate across the campus.”

Jacob Lim – “Favorite time of the year at Saint Lawrence Seminary? For me, that’s got to be during the spring season. Why? It’s because all the birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming, and most importantly, it’s tennis season.”

Mr. Dave Bartel – “Summer. Because all of the students are off campus, and I don’t have to deal with them anymore.”

Chueyee Lor – “My favorite time of the year is the spring because I love that the winter’s finally over and I can finally go outside without a jacket.”

Nathan Fernandes – “Fall, because that’s when the soccer season starts, and it’s also nice and warm. The campus looks really nice, which is a big plus.”

ADVICE CORNER

Kiet Do ('22)

Have you ever felt like summer break is cruising by, and you haven't really done anything? If the answer is yes, don't worry, because most other high school students feel the same! Since summer break is a perfect opportunity for students to gain experience through paid or volunteer jobs, internships, and other activities, in this Issue, we will try to help you make the most of your summer break.

- **Community Service**

Believe it or not, there are so many volunteer opportunities in your community. Whether it is at church, a non-profit organization, parks, homeless shelters, or summer school tutoring, find one that interests you, that is related to your passion, or that you are planning to pursue in college.

- **Travel Abroad**

Summer is all about...traveling, isn't it? If that is your cup of tea, sign up for a study abroad program. Going to different countries may broaden your comfort zone and expands your horizons, as well as enriches you with different cultures.

Whatever your plan for the summer is, don't forget to have fun! Summer is the time to recharge your energy and get ready for the upcoming school year. Enjoy and make the most out of your summer!



RECTOR'S CORNER

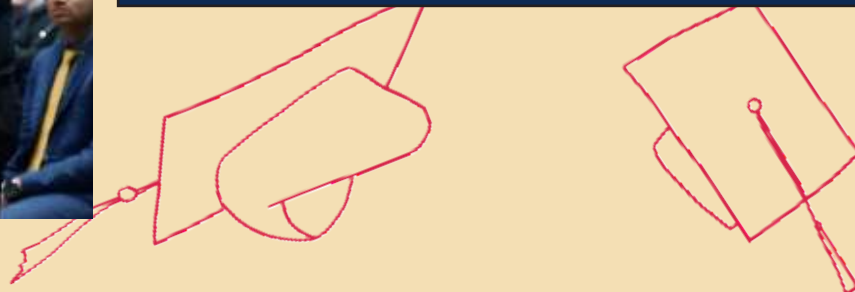
A Sunday school teacher instructed the students in her class to memorize a psalm of their choice to be recited at a parish function. She gave the children a month to learn their psalm. One of her students, Sam, chose Psalm 23, which is one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. Sam was excited, but he just couldn't memorize the entire psalm. Although he practiced and practiced, he could hardly get past the first line, "*The Lord is my shepherd . . .*" The day of the parish function arrived and the students presented their chosen psalm to the assembly. Most of them memorized it and did well. However, Sam was very nervous. And when his turn came, he went forward, stepped up to the microphone and started to recite his psalm: "*The Lord is my Shepherd . . .*" Sam uttered. And then he drew a blank. The room was quiet. The crowd was waiting. Suddenly, Sam's eyes grew big, and with a look of confidence in his face he continued, "*And that's all I need to know!*"



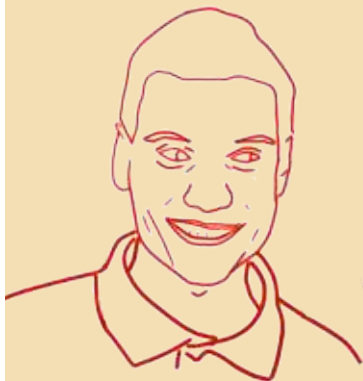
Jesus said that we must have faith like that of a child. Children know whom to listen and whom to follow. They listen and follow those who are familiar to them, those whom they trust, those who love them and care about them. The Fourth Sunday of Easter is often called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because the readings on that Sunday paint an image of Jesus as a shepherd. As a shepherd cares for his flock so Jesus cares about us. Jesus calls each of us by name and beckons us to follow him on the right path. However, our lives are sometimes bombarded with noise and distractions that we could hardly hear Jesus' voice. Our task, therefore, is to root out those noises and distractions so that we may hear Jesus clearly and follow him. But the Good Shepherd that he is, Jesus constantly guides us and seeks us when we are lost and Jesus does not cease to pursue us until we are back safe in his arms.

In closing, I'd like to share this short prayer: *Jesus, help me to listen to your voice. When I am too busy and distracted, I can't hear you calling me to come home to the warmth of your love. Whether I pay attention or not, I know you are waiting there for me, always, with your open arms and your loving gaze. Help me to take time each day to sit in the quiet with you and to thank you for the gift of your love. Help me recognize your voice and to recognize that your guidance and comfort are all that I need. Amen.*

The Lord is our Shepherd. That's all we need to know.



One STEP Closer to the FUTURE Noel Choi ('23)



Christopher Broms, who is from Ontario, Wisconsin, is planning to continue his studies at UW Milwaukee. He is planning to get into the field of engineering, pursuing a major in material science engineering. His dream is to work in SpaceX. For the upcoming summer break, he is going to earn some money by working with his dad who is a software engineer. He claims, "I'm not expecting my path to be easy, but if I try hard enough, I hope to create something that no one has created."



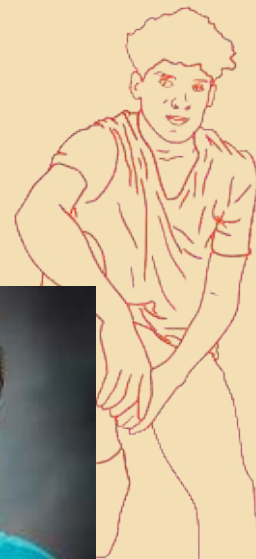
Nathaniel Jude, who is from New Hampshire, is going on a different path than everybody else. He decided to join the Marines. Come September he is leaving for Paris Island, South Carolina for basic training. His desire to serve the country and protect the rights and freedom of people has inspired him to take this path. Right after graduation, he and his family are traveling to Chicago. He plans to work at a pest control company over the summer. Interestingly, after he serves his duty in the Marines, he plans to enter the law field.



Hai Hoang is planning to continue his studies at the University of Alabama. He is majoring in computer science and he hopes to become an actuary. This summer, he is going back to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to be with his family and his friends. Hai said, "I don't know what I am going to do in Vietnam, but I am sure that I am going to have fun."



Yair Rivera is going to a trade school in Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College. He wants to continue his father's legacy in basement construction. After graduation, Yair and his family are celebrating at a restaurant and they are going to Costa Rica during Summer. Yair is planning to work with his dad on basement construction over the summer.



Alex Krause, who is from Mauston, Wisconsin decided to take a gap year after being at SLS for his high school career. Alex decided that he could not handle another school year right after graduation. During his gap year, he is going to work and take a break from school. He is planning to get a job and earn some money. However, Alex is planning to attend trade school in the future. His plan is to be an electrician.



THE VERDICT IS...

Joseph Hall ('22)

There are many times throughout the year that the auditorium of Saint Lawrence Seminary is put to use. Sometimes it is for a movie, sometimes a talk from a guest speaker, sometimes the annual talent show. But this spring it was used for one of the biggest events of the year: the school play.

When it was announced that this year's play was going to be *Twelve Angry Men*, not many people had heard of it before. As was soon explained to the student body, it follows the deliberations of a jury in the case of a young man who is accused of killing his father. It takes place solely in one room and has little action but renowned dialogue. It is well known for its incredible character development, using nothing but spoken lines and minimal physical action. This play is filled with arguments, threats, tortuous twists and turns, prejudices, hidden truths, and supposed lies. Christopher Broms stated, "I had never heard of the play before and I was skeptical about having a one scene play, but once we all read through it together, I knew it would be great."

This year the main role of Juror #8 was played by senior Gael Palacios-Prieto. Gael stated, "At first the play didn't seem that exciting to me, with no scene changes, but as we got into character it became more natural and fun." Other major roles went to junior Jimmy O'Neill and senior Alex Krause. Despite not having many lines, each character seemed to have a personality and unique view of the case that became visible to the audience. Much practice and rehearsal went into the making of the play, and it all paid off when the day of the show came. This year's play, as expected, was an instant success with both students and visitors alike. Harvey Nguyen stated, "It was very fun to perform with so many people, and I think, in the end, we did very well."



Major changes to staffing are on the horizon for the upcoming school year. A number of staff members have decided to retire or resign from SLS; they include Mrs. Sandy Knaus, Mr. Martin Vu, Mrs. Virginia Schmitz, Mr. John Ahlstrom, and Mr. Dennis Holm. These people have been the foundation of many aspects of the SLS experience for many years, truly making it memorable and enjoyable.

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Rem Quintin V. David ('22)

Mr. Ahlstrom has been the band and choir director since 2008; he has also taught Music Appreciation and Music Theory. Each year Mr. Ahlstrom found it interesting to work with the band and choir: there were always new members and those who did not return. "I get goosebumps every time I hear the sounds mesh together. I shiver when 'The Horse' for pep band sounds like 'The Horse' or when we played 'New World Symphony'; that is what I will miss the most," Mr. Ahlstrom reflected. He has also helped with the accompaniment for liturgical Masses, the musicals and plays, and other events. Mr. Ahlstrom wants to spend more time with family, travel, and golf without a school calendar.



Mrs. Schmitz grew up in the area, being aware of the seminary most of her life. When she was offered a job, she took it, and since 1995 she has been the secretary to the Rector. She commented, "I think I'm going to miss the students, staff, and especially parents. I have met some wonderful people over the years." She plans to spend more time with family, to travel, to garden, and to do some volunteer work. She wants to focus on family and enjoy life.

Mr. Holm has worked on the Hill since 1975 and has taught many students, including some of our alumni teachers. In his time here, he has taught Biology 1 and 2 and Physical Education; he has been the Athletic Director, Dean of Students, and has coached most sports (except football and soccer). He introduced three sports programs: tennis, soccer, and wrestling, and he added Biology 2/Advanced Biology to the science curriculum. Mr. Holm expressed, "I have tried for many years to create an image of being tough, demanding, and fair, but before I leave St. Lawrence, I want to say what is in my heart: It is a cliché but it is the truth that I will miss the people. St. Lawrence is a special place—it is family." He finds it bittersweet to leave SLS, but he believes it is time.



Mr. Vu, an SLS alumnus, has worked for the past five years at SLS. He graduated college last year; now he wants to see where life takes him. He has successfully coached the forensics program since he started working here and helped with the musicals and plays. During his time on the Hill, he also supervised sophomore dorm. This year, he worked in Admissions as a recruiter. To him, forensics was what he enjoyed doing the most.

Mrs. Knaus has worked in the environmental services department for the past 15 years. She maintained the Guest House, 1st floor offices of the Main Building, and 1st floor of St. Mary's Hall. Her other roles included washing uniforms and supervising the summer cleaning crew. Meeting international families has been one of the highlights of her job, and now she plans to travel around Wisconsin and play golf with her husband who is also retiring.





ALUMNI *in* ADMISSIONS

Nathan Fernandez ('22)



For over 160 years, Saint Lawrence Seminary has relied on generations of families and alumni to help fill the student body. St. Lawrence has also ventured more internationally, making it one of the most culturally diverse schools in Wisconsin. This year, with plans to expand further, the admissions department welcomed back two alums, Mr. Wyatt Phillips and Mr. Michael Angelo Quiroz, to serve as Admissions Coordinators and help recruit students for the school.

Mr. Phillips was born and raised in Chicago, IL. During his free time, he likes to make comics, short films, board games, and stories. He also enjoys playing video games of all kinds, but likes *Counter Strike Global Offensive* the most. In 2010, he graduated with the 150th class of SLS. Following graduation, he pursued a career as a freelance artist, which ended up being a patchwork of different jobs through his 20s. These jobs included work as a photographer, video artist, screenwriter, film critic, production assistant, and film director. Unfortunately, these were all short-term jobs and he was unable to find anything consistent or long term. Now, twelve years later, his decision to return to the Hill was an easy one. "St. Lawrence never leaves your heart once you've graduated. I was always grateful for the opportunities for growth SLS gave me, and I felt a need to give back to the community that helped form me into the confident and spiritual individual I am today. So, when Mr. Schroeder reached out about the need for an Admissions Coordinator, I felt it would be a great chance to return the favor to my favorite alma mater. I aim to bring fresh ideas and a diligent work ethic that will help excite new and potential students to see all of the amazing opportunities that SLS has to offer."

On the other hand, Mr. Quiroz previously lived in Waukegan, IL, but now is living in Racine, WI. Speaking of his interests, he said, "I feel most alive dancing to bachata, cumbia, and salsa because of the connection you make with the music and your partner. I also like to bowl and play ping-pong. I have motorized bicycles that I tinker with and zip around town during the summer. I like the adrenaline I get while riding them and the 50 miles per gallon." Mr. Quiroz graduated from SLS in 2014, the year of the fire, and upon graduation he went to school for marketing with a concentration in professional sales. Prior to accepting the job at SLS, Mr. Quiroz worked as a property manager, managing the homes of 100 families in the Kenosha Commons apartment complex. Now at SLS, he believes his new position will tap into his strengths and help give back to his alma mater. "I hope to develop strong relationships with all families and parishes. I'm planning to bring lots of enthusiasm and creativity when working with parishes promoting SLS. I'll be serving from Milwaukee, WI, to Lake Forest, IL, and the Hispanic communities of Chicago." With two new recruits at the helm, SLS is certainly heading in the right direction.

It Can be EXPENSIVE



Harvey Nguyen ('22)

DID YOU KNOW?



\$50,184

The actual cost for a student to attend St. Lawrence Seminary

525,000

Number of pieces of plain white paper have been printed

\$484.41

Cost to heat buildings and provide hot water to the entire campus per day



Do you know how many pizzas the Canteen has ordered since August? According to the data, from August 2021 to April 2022, the Canteen sold 1,080 pizzas. "That is a lot of calories," stated Mr. Schroeder.

The cost to keep Saint Lawrence Seminary going is often unclear to the students and even some of the staff members. Yet, there are staff members whose responsibility it is to keep records of this information. One of those members is Mr. Tim Schroeder, the Business Manager.

Besides providing room and board for the students and some staff members, the Business Office has to calculate the cost of keeping buildings on campus running, which can fluctuate greatly from year to year, especially during the winter when heating and hot water are in high demand. In the 2020-2021 school year, from October to April,

the cost to heat buildings and provide hot water to the entire campus was \$313.09 per day; however, the price has increased to \$484.41 per day in 2021-2022, a 35% increase.

Since SLS is an educational institution, several products, which are often seen in a classroom, are essential for daily instruction. For example, EXPO markers are needed in English classes to teach grammar rules or in math classes to confuse students with Calculus functions on the board. Since August, 480 markers have been used by the faculty. But, not everything can be written on the board; there are printed handouts, assignments and tests, and paper used by other staff and students. It was estimated that from August through April, more than 525,000 pieces of plain white paper have been printed.

Putting all those costs together proves SLS is an expensive institution to maintain. That is why the true total

cost for a student to attend SLS is \$50,184. Nevertheless, with the help of benefactors, no student pays that total cost. Even with the donations from benefactors, though, if not budgeted carefully, the campus would not function so efficiently. Mr. Schroeder stated, "Costs are important factors for any organization. It is important to note that costs should bring added value to the seminary." With that said, "A beautiful, clean campus maintains a healthy environment and community pride for the seminary. It shows success. Parents and benefactors want to send their sons and gifts to organizations that are successful."

Maintaining a functioning campus requires a lot of work, and some of it may go unnoticed. The work of Mr. Schroeder and his team is valuable to SLS and, therefore, deserves recognition. Thank you, Mr. Schroeder for all that you do.

FAITH *through* WORKS

Christopher Lor ('23)

Ministry is one of the most important aspects of the program on the Hill. Throughout the four years as an SLS student, a student must complete a certain number of ministry hours. A freshman is required to complete a minimum of five hours throughout the year. Freshman can help with Weekend Visits and different activities on the Hill. Freshman Nathan Burgos said, "My favorite ministry was the Angel Tree Program." A sophomore is required to fulfill ten ministry hours throughout the year. Sophomores have the opportunity to go to the Villa to assist with bingo, help with Weekend Visits and other activities on the Hill. As an upper-class student, juniors and seniors are expected to double their ministry hours. Juniors and seniors have more opportunities to leave campus and serve local communities. A junior will need 20 ministry hours in a given year. Broken Bread, a food pantry, is often one of the most memorable ministry experiences that a junior can participate in. Junior Keith Brylle Fronteras said, "Broken Bread is my favorite ministry because I am able to help those in need. I realize that being humble is a great feeling." Seniors need 30 ministry hours to finish their final year at SLS. Special Olympics Bowling and Basketball are offered to seniors as well as other opportunities, like serving at fish fries or helping make apple pies at local parishes.

Ministry is a wonderful way for students to help those in need. Dr. Michael Donahou, a theology teacher and director of the ministry program, said, "Ministry is essential. This school is all about living the gospel. We have to use the gifts God has given us to help others." Saint Lawrence is always looking for new opportunities for new ministries. Within the past year, Dr. Donahou has added new ministries for SLS students to participate in. Two of the newest ministries on the Hill are building bunk beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace and collecting hygiene products to distribute to the homeless in Milwaukee through Capuchin Community Services. Ministry at SLS is a perfect opportunity for students to grow in their faith, to serve Jesus Christ, and to live the gospels.



As the end of the school year nears, SLS students are still training hard for spring sports. The baseball players made great strides in their abilities to pitch, bat, throw, hit, and run. Coach Noel Sippel said, “For a young, inexperienced team, they’ve made leaps and bounds from when they started. I hope the team learned a lot, and I hope some will even grow a passion for the game like our coaching staff has.” Freshman Sal Gonzalez was proud of the team, saying, “We worked hard as a team, pushing each other to be better.”

The tennis team was also fired up for their season after a hot (and wet) start with multiple wins. Looking back at the season, Coach Michael Donahou said, “Over 30 students joined, and we were thrilled with the participation and enthusiasm. The juniors and seniors were great leaders, especially Noel Choi (‘23) and Jacob Lim (‘22). While getting better at tennis, the players were also good at practicing social skills and being good sports.”

Also running up the competition was the SLS track and field team. After tough conditioning and practices, the team achieved several accolades. Reflecting on the season in early April, Coach Phil McCabe said, “The team has been getting better, although practices have been tough, due to the snow/rain and cold weather. Team members appear to be enjoying themselves also.” The achievements of the track team were treasured by senior Nathaniel Jude, who stated, “We had a really good season. Everyone continued to improve. We really felt like a family.” The spring sports season has proven to be challenging because of the weather, but the teams stayed positive and gave it their best efforts.

HAVING FUN? OF COURTS! (And Track and Fields)

Hung Dao (‘23)



DYNAMIC DUO

Ricky Conlin (‘22)

As the year comes to a close, my work in *Hilltopics* along with my co-editor Kiet Do does the same. It is time for the class of 2023 to rise up to the challenge and opportunity of being editors for next year’s publications. *Hilltopics* will have Noel Choi and Chris Lor as co-editors next year. I have known them both for some time, and do not doubt that they will be able to make something special out of their volume, volume LVIII. Chris is excited for the opportunity to expand his writing and creative capabilities along with Noel. Chris said, “It is an honor to continue this tradition at St. Lawrence with the help of Noel Choi, my partner in crime.” Noel has already set a lofty goal for himself and Chris, saying, “I am planning to create an unforgettable *Hilltopics* that will stand out in the history of SLS.”

The best advice I can give to Noel and Chris is to plan out your time and to not procrastinate. Kiet and I had a not-so-good habit of waiting a bit too long to start working on issues, and I hope Noel and Chris can avoid that. I wish nothing but the best of luck for the two of them, although doubt they will need it; both of them are hard workers and excel in whatever they do. *Hilltopics* editors old and new wish all of our readers a fun and restful summer.



Hilltopics
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“It’s not going to be the same without you guys,” I remember saying that to last year’s seniors-- my mind considering how to step up and take on the role of leaders of the school. Yet, it’s already our turn to hear those same words. The school year has flown by filled with a lot of memorable events. Whether it was with my frat trying to figure out when the next frat party might be, having self-serve hotpots in the senior dorm lobby, or experiencing a complete Spanish Mass on Easter, I appreciate all the time spent with my brothers at SLS.

Saying thank you is a good way to say goodbye. Ricky, thank you for being the best co-editor I could have asked for. I could have never expected a better cover! I want to thank Mrs. Sippel and the *Hilltopics* staff for their tremendous work in supporting Ricky and me. Thank you, Mr. Bartel, for your Calculus class. Let’s hope it will make calculus easy for me in college. And, of course, to my brothers on the Hill, thank you for all the memories we have made. Farewell!

KIET DO



Editors’ *Quotidian Remarks*

The sun has set on my high school career; my time on the Hill is at long last over. I’m probably a bit overly-sentimental, but it’s difficult to let go of these aspects of my life. I have always been bad at goodbyes. It’s difficult to say goodbye to the 28 brothers I have made on this hill. The memories we have made together will stay with me for the rest of my life.

I want to give a special thanks to Mr. Holm, Mr. Bartel, Mrs. Daane, Mr. Krieg, and Mr. Lou for being incredible teachers that have shaped who I am today. I want to thank Kiet, of course, for doing a lot of the page layout and to Mrs.



Sippel for helping both of us along this journey. I want to thank the Class of 2022 for being my brothers. Finally, I want to thank everyone who has read Volume LVII of *Hilltopics*. I hope to see you again sometime, but for now, this is goodbye.

RICKY CONLIN