

The show must go on.

It was during Easter Break in 2015. I travelled to New York City to see one of my favorite operas at the Metropolitan Opera in Lincoln Center: *Don Carlo* by Giuseppe Verdi. This monumental drama, which pits a king against his son, for love and power, is set in the shadow of the Spanish Inquisition—the epic 16th century struggle between Church and state. It was a night to remember. The music was grand. The staging was striking. The performances were unforgettable—in part due to the inspired singing of the stellar cast, but also because of what the tenor in the title role did. In the middle of the third act, during a tense confrontation scene, the tenor appeared to have suddenly lost his voice, and can be seen struggling his way through. After the intermission, before the beginning of the next act, it was announced to the audience that the tenor was ill, and that he will soldier on in spite of it. And he did soldier on to the end. During the curtain call, the tenor received a rousing applause and a standing ovation from the audience for his heroic display.

The current struggles we are facing collectively due to the global outbreak of the novel coronavirus, reminded me of what I witnessed that night at the opera. COVID-19 surely has upended our lives. It disrupted the normal operations of many an organization, including ours. It left many scrambling to make necessary adjustments, some in order to survive. It caused us to wonder when this pandemic will come to an end. It made us worry about what the future holds for our family, for our school, for our country, for jobs, for travelling, and many other things that have become parts and parcels of quotidian living. Like many schools and businesses, we suspended normal operations. We asked students, teachers, and most staff to stay and work from home. We had to quickly devise a plan to carry on with our mission, because in spite of the stay-at-home mandates and the social distancing requirements, the education and formation of our students must go on, albeit in a different venue and through a different platform.

I wish to thank all of our staff and students, for soldiering on during this truly unexpected and very challenging time. I am grateful for your cooperation, patience, and perseverance. Your heroism has kept the mission of St. Lawrence Seminary alive and well. Thank you! You all deserve a rousing applause and a standing ovation!



RECTOR'S CORNER

Fr. Zoy Garibay, OFM Cap.

02

It's a Party

in the

UNIVERSITY

Andrzej Kielar ('22)

On Saturday, February 22nd a mandatory fun event was scheduled and students gathered in the canteen for a night of fun and excitement. This year the student council chose, organized, and prepared Cosmic Bowling and Karaoke as the event. The bowling alley was transformed into a disco party straight out of the 70's, with disco balls flashing and music humming. The rest of the canteen was dimmed and the line for food only grew as the night went on. Of course the most popular event of the night was the karaoke. One and all had an opportunity to stand and sing a song of their choosing, while others sang along from a large group that amassed in front of the speakers. The Peruvian visitors were also able to attend and even sang a song or two before their eager audience. According to the Student Council Vice President Julio Perea, "We thought it was a great event, the student population was successful in encouraging the Peruvians to integrate into the SLS culture." Along with the food, singing, and bowling many just chose to socialize and relax. Many laughs were shared in the numerous groups scattered around the canteen. The student council did a phenomenal job organizing this year's event and all can agree it was a night to remember.

The League of

HILLTOPPERS

Thomas Nguyen ('21)

The League of Legends club-what was initially started as a small school club, has recently taken off and transformed into a new interscholastic sport with a varsity and junior varsity team. In the past, the League of Legends club was only a pastime where students played together against random players on the weekends. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Logan Burge, Andrew Tran, Osvaldo Gonzales and Dave Truong, we were able to organize a team that could compete against other schools in the WIHSEA (Wisconsin High School E-Sports Association).

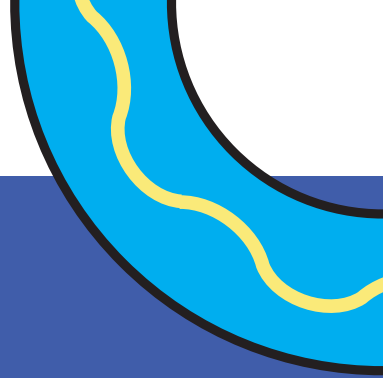
League of Legends is an online multiplayer battle arena game where players fight to gain control and dominance of a map. There are five players on each team, and the main objective of the game is to destroy the opponent's Nexus. The best way to gain success in this game is through teamwork and communication. The varsity team has found much success this season, having an undefeated record. "I enjoy being a part of the League of Legends team, we effectively communicate and work together to be a truly fearsome team," stated Dan Tran.

With a recent gain of popularity, many schools across the world are now investing into the world of E-Sports. There is even scholarship opportunities for the students participating. Our team faces the question, "Will a championship at the state level be easy for the Hilltoppers?" Coach, Mr. Logan Burge said, "Many of our players have been playing this game for many years, and their experience really shows. They have all worked very hard for this moment, and they want to come back with a state championship. The state tournament was scheduled for, March 21st, which was cancelled because of the COVID-19 epidemic.

This past February SLS was involved in another successful exchange with our sister school in Peru: Colegio Santa Ana. This was the third year SLS had been involved in the exchange thanks to Mrs. Alexandra Auch. Mrs. Auch helped coordinate the exchange, scheduled dates, and helped the Peruvians during their stay.

On February 16th, a handful of Peruvian students from our sister school arrived to the Hill of Happiness for an experience of a lifetime. While they were at SLS they integrated into quotidian student life by attending classes, chapel, eating meals with us, and enjoying free time with SLS students on campus. Each Peruvian student had a math class, an English class, a physical education class, and a social studies class, the students also engaged in special projects in woodshop and project design. After school they could be seen enjoying their free time in lower Saint Anthony or in the gym. Along with the on campus experience, they were also taken on a field trips off campus. The excursion led them to Sunburst, a local ski hill and sledding park. There they were able to go sledding and really experience snow for their first time. Some had already sledded on the sand dunes in Peru but, never on snow. Soon after they were taken to the mall which proved to be their favorite part of the exchange.

Near the end of the exchange a Peruvian performance took place in the auditorium. There SLS students and staff were able to observe various dances and songs from Peru. Select students, faculty and staff members were taken on stage and danced with the Peruvian students. After the performance the visitors handed out candies, brought from Peru, to SLS students as a way of thanking SLS for their hospitality. The whole experience ended on February 25th when the Peruvian visitors had to return home to their country.



AN

EXCHANGE

OF CULTURE

Aaron Villegas ('21)





Deutscher Austausch

Ellison Juern ('21)

On March 4th, 14 German students left with Mr. Kevin Beulow, the German teacher, and Mr. Anthony Van Asten to embark on a trip to Germany. The group left Chicago O'Hare later that day and arrived in Frankfurt, Germany at 6:00 am the following day. They then flew to Münster, where they were met by staff members of the Loburg, SLS's partner school.

On the first day, students met their host and their families, toured the school and went to class. After school was over the SLS students left with their host to go to their house and get some rest. The first weekend, all of the students did various activities with their host families. Some students went into the city of Münster, while others stayed in their town. Senior Hyeonyu Kim and juniors Ellison Juern and Danny Draftz went on a city tour of Münster with their hosts. Junior Peter Pham went to a ski resort with his host family. Monday it was time to return to school and throughout the week, the St. Lawrence students attended classes and were interviewed by students in English class. Not only did the students attend classes, but they also went on a day trip to Dortmund. In Dortmund, the students visited the Steinwache Museum, which was used by the Gestapo during World War II. The Steinwache was an old prison that held political criminals.

Junior Toan Nguyen said, "It was interesting to learn about the history of the prison and the cells were eerie to look at." After lunch in Dortmund, the students left to see the Zeche Zollverein, Coal Mine in Essen. There the students took a tour of the old coal processing plant and saw how the art of mining evolved over the last few decades.

After a week of classes, excursions and sight-seeing in Germany, the group sadly had to cut the trip short due to COVID-19. The students and staff left on an early Friday morning and returned safely to the Hill later that day, before the travel restrictions for the United States set in. Although the trip was shortened, the memories made in Germany are ones that will last, and the exchange trip will never be forgotten.

