

# TOPICS

Celebrating 50 Years as St. Lawrence  
Seminary's Student Publication

# FIFTY



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## Moms and Dads of Calvary

By: Kevin Dang

St. Lawrence Seminary is not a normal school. Its student body is all boys. It's a boarding high school. It's run by Capuchins. It's isolated on a hill in Wisconsin. And it claims a diverse student body that has roots around the world. Indeed, there is a list of odd reasons that would make parents think twice when comparing SLS to other schools. But even more extraordinary than those reasons is the trust parents exemplify when they decide that SLS is the school for their son. This trust is figuratively what makes up the student body and is literally celebrated on Parents' Weekend, an annual tradition that invites all parents to experience the joy that is synonymous with this Hill.



Freshman Daniel Solorzano spends some time with his family.

On Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, the campus was flooded with parents who made the trip from far and wide. After varsity and junior varsity soccer games against Wayland at home in the morning, lunch was served and a mother-son kickball game followed. "I can't believe I lost to my mom," said sophomore Logan Burge. Once the dust settled, the fathers took the field and challenged their sons to a friendly softball game. In the evening there was a bountiful cookout and evening prayer preceding a Performing Arts Showcase in the auditorium, which included members of the band, choir, and forensics team followed by loads of applause. Afterwards, a social was held in the refectory for everyone to attend, and the students went to bed weary from all the action of the day.

SLS is not a normal school. But it is extraordinary for all the right reasons. This sentiment filled the chapel when Mass took place on Sunday morning and was reflected on the smiling faces of parents, assured that their choice of SLS was the right one. "My parents, coming all the way from Virginia, were more than impressed," said junior Timmy Le. T

## Showing Gratitude

By: Kenneth Ohene-Adu Jr.

To honor St. Lawrence Seminary's donors and benefactors, a date is set annually to properly thank them for all they have done and continue to do for the school. Called the "Benefactors Open House," a special Sunday in October sees the Hill teeming with guests who come to see the fruits of their faithful donations and prayers. Every year the benefactors are invited to join the students for Mass on the Hill, as well as a meal in the refectory and tours of the campus. This year, the Benefactors Open House was held on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

The celebration began with Mass, and after, the guests were welcomed into the refectory. Having just been remodelled, this was a perfect chance for the benefactors to see their money put to use on campus. After the meal, the seniors took the benefactors on tours of various buildings on campus, driving golf carts to shuttle guests between them. Highlights of the tour this year were the new St. Anthony Hall and an art show displaying students' work.

The Benefactors Open House is an important part of the school's yearly schedule. The program is run by the staff of the development office, who have the most contact with the donors. SLS runs because of donations by benefactors; without the benefactors, there would be no seminary. It was, therefore, a sign of gratitude to take time out of the schedule to dedicate the day to them, thanking them for all the good they have done and what their contributions to the school have made possible. It was a chance for the benefactors to see the students on the Hill and everyone's gratitude for their thoughts, prayers, and monetary contributions. T



Senior Kevin Draftz checks that his passengers are ready for the tour.

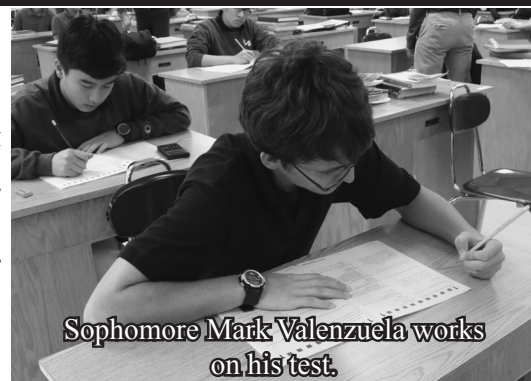
## Test Prep... Again!

By: Austin Stevens

Every year in October, the students at St. Lawrence Seminary, at least the freshmen through juniors, participate in something called testing day. Testing day is the day when SLS completes its required administration of standardized tests to the student body. This day is very important because it helps students prepare for the SAT and ACT, which they take in their junior or senior years to determine college entrance. Testing day gives students a better idea of what to expect when it comes time to take the college exams. The tests are also required by the state of Wisconsin, as a way of determining which schools are achieving and which are failing.

After the tests are completed, mailed off to the test companies, graded, and then sent back, they give students, teachers, and administrators detailed results on how well they succeeded in subjects on the test. They tell about each student's strengths, weaknesses, what kind of job possibilities he should look into, and they also predict what a student would score on the actual ACT or SAT test. As junior John O' Neill emphasized, "I really like testing day because it gives me a chance to see where my ACT scores might fall."

This year, though, things were quite a bit different for the freshmen and sophomores. Instead of using the Explore and PLAN tests offered by the ACT company in the past, ACT moved to a new exam called the ACT Aspire. According to ACT's website, "ACT Aspire maps learner progress from grades three through high school on a vertical scale, anchored to the scoring system of the ACT." With this new test, there will be an added section, which consists of a writing test. This is an important component because it is an essential part of applying to colleges, as the writing test appears on both the ACT and SAT tests now. As guidance counselor Mrs. Jane Lefebber said, "It gives the students a better chance to express themselves and show off what they have learned." Even though the underclassmen underwent a change, the upperclassmen did not. The juniors still took the PSAT, as in years past. Hopefully, with the new tests and the data generated from them, students, teachers, and administrators can work to improve the education at SLS. T



Sophomore Mark Valenzuela works on his test.

## Field Trip Fun

By: Andrew Wolfe

Students at SLS have many opportunities to get off the Hill. Among these opportunities are field trips and ministry events. Many students enjoy having a little time off the Hill by helping people in ministries like Broken Bread (where students help at a food pantry) or Mt. Morris (where students help to maintain the wooded grounds), but many students also find a lot of enjoyment in going on field trips, such as mall trips or movies. Some more unique trips that happened so far this year included a canoe outing, a visit to the Sheboygan County fair, a tour of a corn maze, cave exploration, and a trip to see the play *Dracula*.

The trips to the mall and to the movies happen very often, with opportunities almost every week, but many field trips only happen once or twice a year. Some of these onetime trips included a trip to the caves at Ledgeview Nature Center on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Some more recent trips have included a trip to a corn maze and a trip to see the play *Dracula* on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Francisco Regalado, a junior, went to the corn maze with some classmates and chaperones Mrs. Jenny Tabbert and Ms. Jamie Stephanie. He said, "It was a very enjoyable time getting lost and eventually finding my way out." Senior Christian Osornio went to see the play *Dracula* with Mrs. Katie Daane and some other students. After seeing the play, he said, "*Dracula* was a time to remember, and the actor who played Dracula was ruthless, bloodthirsty, and made the show all the better."

Sometimes students might not be able to go on one of the more unusual trips, but many students have had good times going on the regular mall trips or movie trips. A new experience this year is the "mystery trips." The administration wanted to encourage students to get out more often, so, to garner some interest, they instituted a secret trip protocol. Students are informed that there will be a field trip and how much it costs, but they aren't told what they'll be doing. Students who are daring enough to sign up find out on the day of the trip when they climb in the van. Whether a mystery trip, a mall trip, or some other special event, field trips are meant to give students a chance to get off the Hill and encounter new experiences. T



SLS students pose for a picture after they all found their way out of the corn maze.

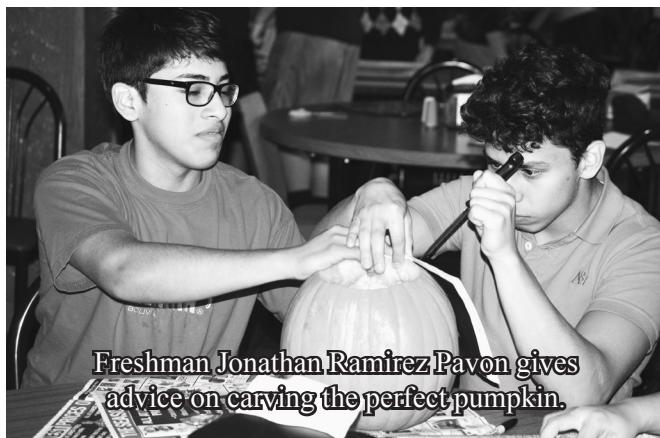


# Soaring Spirits, Savoring Sweets, and Seeking Scares

By: Joseph Min

The month of October is very special to St. Lawrence students in that it epitomizes the change of seasons with many exciting events and activities happening. The students experienced their first home weekend of the school year and the end of the first quarter. Other events included the Feast of St. Francis and Founder's Day. These special events often accompany schedule changes that may be confusing at times. However, they are also part of the lively and spirited atmosphere of SLS, a spirit that was especially apparent during Spirit Week and Halloween.

Every year, a week towards the end of October is chosen as a time for special activities throughout the school days, also called Spirit Week. Spirit Week consisted of special dress-up days and various daily activities such as pumpkin carving, cookie decorating, making pizzas, and playing capture-the-flag, all in preparation for Halloween, which was just days ahead. During the dress-up days, students were allowed to wear clothes other than school dress by following a school-wide theme each day. Many students found Spirit Week to be very enjoyable. Senior Michael Ko said, "It reinforced the unity, brotherhood, and Calvary spirit...it tore down class boundaries." This year's Spirit Week started on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and continued through the 26<sup>th</sup>. Its dress-up days featured crazy hair day, jersey day, and ugly tie day. Indeed, the week provided a positive change in the students' daily lives, as it provided something "different" from the repetitive school days.



Freshman Jonathan Ramirez Pavon gives advice on carving the perfect pumpkin.



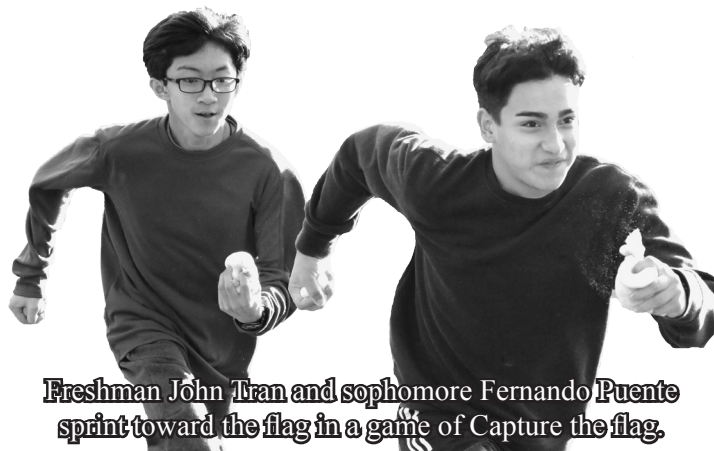
Mr. Anthony Van Asten finds the balance between retro and crazy.

On the Hill, Halloween started on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, with the much-anticipated Haunted House created and hosted by the seniors. The seniors put in much planning and effort to leave an exciting memory for the rest of the students. When the students stepped in the Haunted House, their hearts could not help but race as they went through the winding passageways filled with creepiness, scares, and special effects. Sophomore Brian Tang commented, "I was surprised by the amount of effort the seniors put into it." After going through the Haunted House, all the students gathered in the refectory for the Halloween party hosted by the juniors. The party included the pizza and cookies they had made during the week, drinks, and many party games that made everyone – including the staff – excited.

Though the Haunted House and the Halloween party initiated Halloween at SLS, the highlight of Halloween was undoubtedly trick-or-treating, which was on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Students dressed up after lunch as their favorite superheroes and cartoon characters, while others dressed up in funny, makeshift costumes just for the laugh and the sweets. Halloween this year was different from last year in respect to Spirit Week. Normally, trick-or-treating, the Haunted House tours, and the Halloween party occur at the end of Spirit Week. However, with Halloween falling so late, the Halloween party and Haunted House were moved to the prior Sunday and trick-or-treating was left for Halloween day.

By the time Spirit Week and Halloween ended on October 31<sup>st</sup>, most on the Hill made numerous memories that they will cherish. Though some may not have enjoyed the Haunted House or trick-or-treating as much as others, everyone was able to reinforce the bonds between their friends, classmates, and the St. Lawrence community as a whole. Anthony Mensah, the student council president, was pleased that all the events went so well. He said, "A lot of good things came together that made it a great week." The starting weeks of the second quarter were indeed filled with school spirit, sweets, and – of course – a lot of fun with a little bit of fright. T



Freshman John Tran and sophomore Fernando Puente sprint toward the flag in a game of Capture the flag.



## Basis of Government

By: Adolfo Mora

Each year in the spring, the students of SLS vote for the Student Council Executive Officers who will serve the following year. Students elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Those who were elected last spring include senior Anthony Mensah as President, senior Christian Tango-an as Vice President, junior John O'Neill as Secretary, and junior Zebadiah Boos as Treasurer. The Student Council Executive Officers lead the entire student council and student body, with the support of faculty advisor Mrs. Margie Buelow. The Student Council also has the vigorous task of organizing special school events.

Upon return to St. Lawrence in the fall, students had their own class elections. Each class elected a President, Vice President, Spiritual Life Representative, and three council representatives. Seniors elected President Samuel Pham, Vice President Miguel Limon, Spiritual Life Rep. Kevin Draftz, and Representatives David Avalos, Jesus Moctezuma, and Kenneth Ohene-Adu. The junior class elected President Joseph Min, Vice President Kamsi Nwanebo, Spiritual Life Rep. Isaias Godinez, and Representatives Ashiq Legi, Benjamin Cruz, and Ricardo Diaz. Sophomores elected President Adolfo Mora, Vice President Lewis Bensett, Spiritual Life Rep. Yannick Hernandez, and Representatives John Lopez, Tsimneej Lor, and Richard Van.



Mr. Lou congratulates Sophomore Class President Adolfo Mora.



Student leaders receive a blessing.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, all of the student leaders, along with Br. David Hirt and Dr. Rick Voell, attended leadership training at Camp Anokijig. Kamsi Nwanebo explained, "Attending training at Camp Anokijig was an engaging way to learn how we can lead our peers to the best of our ability." During the second quarter, freshmen will hold their own elections to choose their class officers for the remainder of the school year. Without the service of these student leaders, many activities on the Hill, school-wide and class specific, would not be possible. T

## The Rector's View

By: Fr. John Holly

As I was walking through a Walmart the other day, I passed rows and rows of Halloween candy! By the weekend, all that virtually disappeared except for some half-price sales. For just a few days, only a few days, cut-outs of turkeys, cornucopias and pilgrims with heads bowed in prayer will appear on the same shelves that, earlier, carried the candy for trick-or-treating. The turkeys and pilgrims signal the celebration of Thanksgiving, the quintessential holiday commemorating the pilgrims' first harvest and, as the story goes, the sharing of a meal with the native peoples, all to give thanks for a new home and God's blessings of a rich harvest.

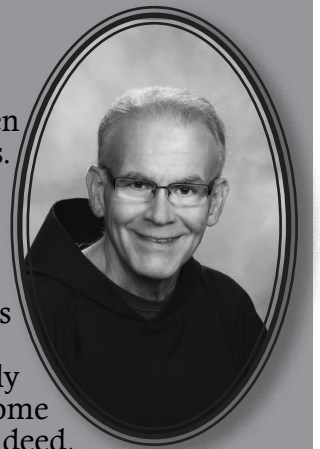
While we will see those turkeys and cornucopias, our thanksgiving celebrations probably bear little resemblance to the "first" thanksgiving meal. We will eat inside warm houses, some with "turkey and all the trimmings" and others with vastly different, yet familiar foods, indeed, traditional foods of our families.

All of this happens very fast, as even before Thanksgiving Day, the store decorations have been replaced by Christmas trees and sales. Last year, many stores began to open for the "Black Friday" sales on Thanksgiving night, at least late that night. This year many more stores will open and most will open by 6 P.M....before the dishes are even done!

Thanksgiving Day has enjoyed just about universal acceptance in the United States, and now, it seems, it's being squeezed out by those "too good to be missed sales" of 60-inch TVs and the latest devices you just have to have for Christmas this year.

For me, it's important to have the great Thanksgiving meal; it's important to recall the blessings of the past year and to give thanks; it's important to pause and relax with my family.

Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas. I will stroll down Michigan Avenue in Chicago on that Friday afternoon or evening after Thanksgiving. I love to see the lights, the decorations and the crazy crowds, but just let me have Thanksgiving Day first so I can give thanks for you and all my other blessings! T



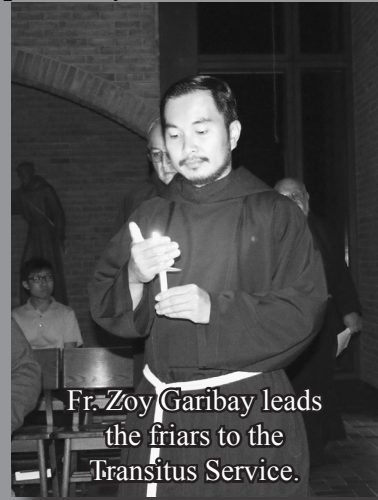


## Francis the Founder

By: Kamsi Nwanebo

“While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.” - St. Francis of Assisi

It was in reverent recognition of a holy man that the Capuchin Friars, students, and staff of St. Lawrence Seminary gathered on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup>. The two-day celebration in honor of Saint Francis, the Transitus and his Feast day, recalled his passing from life into death. This feast was a very significant event for the Capuchins primarily because Francis is the founding father of the Capuchin Franciscan brothers.



Fr. Zoy Garibay leads the friars to the Transitus Service.

On the Hill, the celebration began on the eve of the feast. The prayer service that was held consisted of readings that recounted the events before Francis' death. The entire congregation also shared a loaf of bread in representation of the meals that St. Francis shared with his friars as well as the least of God's people. On the following day, the actual Feast of Saint Francis, a Mass was held in remembrance of him and in commemoration of the feast day. Immediately after the Mass, the celebration was concluded with a banquet in the refectory.

Every year St. Francis's final actions are recalled and the Capuchins are reminded of the values they have chosen to follow and on whom they have chosen to model their own lives. As Brother Larry Groeschel explained, “The Transitus celebration fills us with a heightened sense of spirituality.” The student body is also reminded of the powerful example of St. Francis that permeates everything that takes place on the Hill. The Transitus and the Feast rekindle the flame Francis lit within each of his followers and impels them to continue to live as Francis did. T



## Faculty and Staff Religion Class?

By: John-Andy Garza

One of the classes that St. Lawrence Seminary requires all students to take is a religion class. This is mandatory for all students who wish to be part of the school. But religious education doesn't end at high school graduation, as demonstrated by SLS's own faculty and staff. Throughout the last few years, the faculty and staff have been participating in their own religion class entitled “Sustaining the Mission.” This program, which is coordinated by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, is geared toward helping Catholic schools maintain and improve their Catholic identity. According to the Archdiocese's website, “More than 2,000 elementary and secondary school educators working at all of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese are participating in the program.” Catholic identity is the faculty and staff's own understanding of what it means to be a Catholic school and how they will share that with the students. However, sustaining a Catholic identity goes beyond the teachers beginning class with a prayer and attending Mass with the students on Friday mornings.

Almost all the teachers, supervisory staff, spiritual directors, and friars on campus attend meetings in the Weisbrod Conference Room in St. Mary's Hall. These meetings occur about three times a semester. Br. David Hirt, the campus minister, explained why this is important to the school: “We do it because in our secular society even good Catholics sometimes need help understanding who we are, what we believe, why we do the things we do, and help passing that on.”

Some of the topics that have been incorporated into the meetings range from the sacraments to the traditions in the Church, or how to build oneself as a Catholic and to building others. These can be presented in formal lectures, informational power points, or discussions. Organized by the Cardinal Stritch University Saint Clare Center for the Office for Schools, they are taught by a variety of lay educators and ordained ministers in the Archdiocese. Many of the staff members have found the sessions beneficial in defining Catholicism and reinvigorating their own faith. T



Mr. Dennis Holm and Mr. Tim Schultz discuss the mission.



## A New Look at the Sons of Calvary

By: Zeb Boos

When people find out about the Hill of Happiness, their usual reaction is something along the lines of, “Wow, I didn’t know that even existed.” Well, now there is a whole new form of media attempting to change that response. For those who have never heard about St. Lawrence or for those who are interested in looking into it, now, instead of thinking about St. Lawrence, they can actually see it through a series of videos entitled *Sons of Calvary*. These new films are being produced by several staff members including Mr. Craig Hostetler, Mr. Sebastian Vervaeck, Mr. Francisco Saucedo, Mr. Jairo Galan, and Mr. John Riss. The films are intended to give benefactors, alumni, and current and prospective families a view into the goings-on of the Hill. They are especially marketed to those who want to see St. Lawrence but, for whatever reason, aren’t likely to do so in person. Mr. Hostetler, who is responsible for the filming and much of the script writing, said his goal with the series is to expand the community of SLS beyond just the alumni and benefactors, and he wants to give back to SLS. Through these videos, the creators hope to highlight the important events that take place on campus. For those on the Hill, it is easy to tell when something important is happening because Mr. Hostetler is usually there with his super camera.

For those who want to locate these videos, go to YouTube <[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)> and search “Saint Lawrence Seminary” or “Sons of Calvary.” There is also a link to the videos on the St. Lawrence website [www.stlawrence.edu](http://www.stlawrence.edu). Those who are even more interested can subscribe directly on YouTube so an email reminder arrives every time a new video is posted, or one can receive an email reminder from St. Lawrence’s development office by visiting <[www.stlawrence.seminary.org/video-archive](http://www.stlawrence.seminary.org/video-archive)>. With five videos in the series so far, covering topics from the students moving in to the dorms to what roles students play at Mass to the blessing of St. Anthony Hall, it is clear that the films will cover the very fun and key moments of life on the Hill and give those who may be far away a glimpse into life at SLS. T



Mr. Craig Hostetler adjusts his camera to capture that perfect angle.

## Runners Finish Strong

By: Anthony Coompson

For some people running is tiresome, but for others it is a passion. For those who run on the cross country team at SLS, the latter must be true. Many students tried out for a spot on the team in the fall, and those who made it did their best throughout the season to represent the school in strong ways. The runners’ abilities developed as the season went on and the team performed well throughout it. For practice, students did a number of tiring drills. A normal practice usually consisted of running perimeters, running Bertha (the 976m hill on campus), or running three miles to the gas station and back. Practices were hard because runners were challenged physically, but with the desire to get better, most didn’t mind running the extra mile.

Cross country meets are usually not held at St. Lawrence Seminary, except in the case of the Hilltopper Invitational. However, this year saw a special occurrence: the Flyway Conference Cross Country meet was hosted at SLS on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Runners were once again challenged push past their limits. “It was both a mental and physical challenge,” said senior Michael Ko. At the conference meet, SLS’s varsity team took 5<sup>th</sup> out of 9 teams. Top finisher was Tyler McFadzen in 9<sup>th</sup> place. Rodrigo Ramirez and freshman Wilson Burge also finished in the top 25. The JV team finished 1<sup>st</sup> out of 5 teams. Sophomore Logan Burge finished in 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by sophomore Roberto Silva in 4<sup>th</sup>, and senior Connor McCabe in 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Sectional Meet was held at Cedar Grove-Belgium High School on October 25<sup>th</sup>. It was the final run for all of this year’s runners, as top finishers for St. Lawrence were Wilson Burge and Tyler McFadzen, who guided St. Lawrence to a 12<sup>th</sup> place finish. After the race, Coach Kevin Buelow said, “It was a good season. It is always hard to see a group of seniors run their last race; however, they have done a great job this year in molding runners for the years to come.” T



Freshman Yann Memiaghe keeps pace with senior Connor McCabe.



## The Ultimate Intramurals

By: Gary Kim

At St. Lawrence Seminary, nobody is excluded from participating in a sport each season. Some of the students participated on the soccer or cross country teams for the fall season, but those who chose not to join an organized sport were required to find an intramural sports team on which to participate.

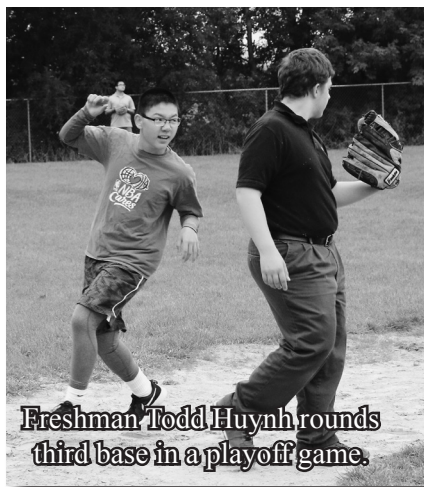
There are many purposes for the intramural activity requirement. The main reason is to give students extra time to be more active. Students are expected to play some sports and get extra exercise, even if they are not on an extra-curricular sports team. For new students, intramurals are a good chance to get to know others in the school. This fall, students had three intramurals to choose from: biking, softball, or volleyball.

The biking intramural was led and supervised by Mr. Anthony Van Asten. Students in this activity found themselves mountain biking at a local bike park in Fond du Lac on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

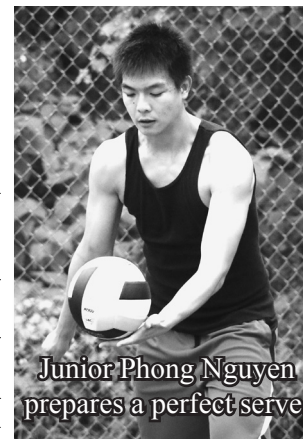
The softball intramural, supervised by Mr. Evan Kinney, saw four teams playing throughout the season and all four teams participated in a tournament at the end of the year. Team Cardinal won the first playoff game against Team Yellow Jackets by a score of 13-12. Team Green Hornets won the second playoff game against Team Orioles by a score of 13-4. The Yellow Jackets won the consolation game for third place 8-6 against the Orioles, and the Green Hornets won the championship game 8-3 against the Cardinals. Timothy Nguyen, a sophomore, commented, "The games were very intense, especially the comebacks."

The volleyball intramural teams, supervised by Mr. Jairo Galan, also played throughout the season and culminated in a playoff. First place was taken by Team Hoyas who were undefeated throughout the entire season. Junior Fidel Ramirez commented, "It was competitive all through the season."

Many students commented how this season of intramurals was a lot of fun, run by a great group of supervisors. Hopefully, the students who participated found a fun way to stay active and to be involved with others on campus. T



Freshman Todd Huynh rounds third base in a playoff game.



Junior Phong Nguyen prepares a perfect serve.

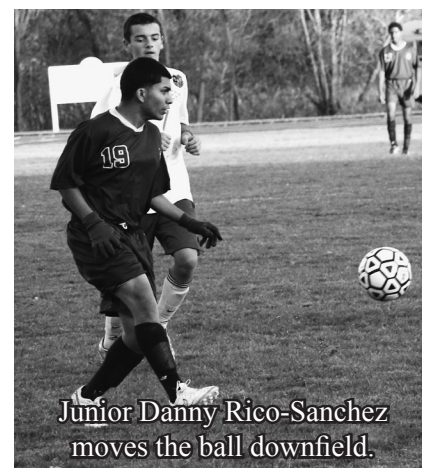
## SLS Still Kicking

By: Michael Ko

This year's soccer season at SLS was one of great change. After some crushing defeats at the start of the season, as they faced several strong teams, SLS's varsity team was sitting with a record of 2 wins and 8 losses. However, with rigorous training, strong coaching by Mr. David Bartel and Mr. Sebastian Vervaeck, and the players' determination to win, the varsity team improved dramatically. After their first win against Oshkosh Lourdes, the varsity team went on to beat Central Wisconsin Christian, Mayville, Lomira, Wayland Academy, and other schools.

One change that impacted the varsity team's play this year was the focus on the mid-field position. Last year SLS focused more on developing their strikers, but this year's soccer team focused more on developing the mid-fielders. The role of mid-fielders was important as it concentrates on training the team members to push the play up to the strikers, who then were able to score. At the end of the regular season for the varsity team, a season that ended on a win against Omro, Coach Bartel said, "After starting the year at 2 and 8, we were able to get ourselves back to .500 at 8 and 8. It was a tough haul but we did it."

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the varsity soccer team started the 2014 tournament with a Regional game against Omro. With three goals in the first twenty minutes of the game and a final score of 7-1, the varsity team was off to a strong start in the playoffs. The next game was against Central Wisconsin Christian on October 16<sup>th</sup>. It was cold and rainy day, but SLS varsity won 3-1. That led the team to Sectionals on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, as they played under the lights in Fond du Lac against Winnebago Lutheran Academy. With much excitement, over 80 students traveled to watch the varsity play. Sadly, SLS lost 2-1, but it was a good match against a hard team. Coach Bartel said that night, "Losing the last game of the season is never easy, especially for the seniors. I thought we gave it all we had tonight but we came up short." The varsity team had much to be proud of throughout their season. So did the JV soccer team, as their season was also very successful. Under the direction of new coach Mr. William Mattes and returning coach Mr. Nick Holm, the team had only one loss during the whole season. Congratulations to both teams on their strong seasons! T



Junior Danny Rico-Sanchez moves the ball downfield.



## LoL: A Laughing Matter?

By: John O'Neill

If one were to take a look in the computer lab on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday afternoon, they would see the same game on about half of the available computers: *League of Legends*. This online, multiplayer game, accessible only during specific hours, allows users to combat other players across a geographical region via their "Champion," or chosen character. Each champion has a particular skill set of attack techniques (called "abilities") ranging from frozen arrows and bombs to spinning swords and "crushing blows" (critical body shots). The object of the game is to destroy the enemies' "Nexus," or spawn point. Once the Nexus is destroyed, the game ends and users can commence a new match.

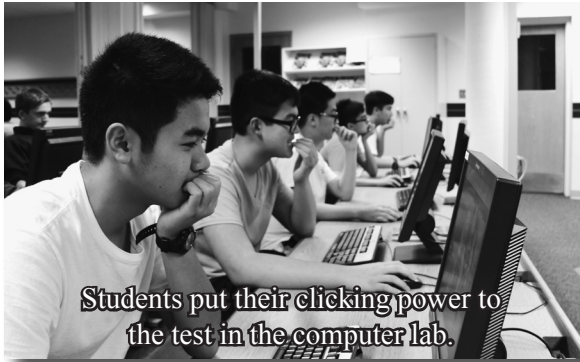
Even though the game *sounds* complicated, many students love to play it, finding it rather easy. Junior Timmy Le exclaimed, quoting his favorite champion, "I will be the best!" He went on to explain, "It provides a sense of enjoyment when you defeat the enemy champion. It is also a good time to play with friends." Sophomore Martin Vu explained, "It lets me spend time with friends and family from other states."

While many enjoy *League of Legends* (LoL for short), there is a crowd who despises it. Junior Zebadiah Boos laughed while he said, "I love watching all those [people] play like it really matters. It's an addiction that shouldn't be there." Many students sided with him, including sophomore Minh Tran, "I agree to some degree because, though some people who play LoL still earn good grades, it is extremely rare."

Whatever the case may be, there is no doubt that among many of SLS's students, *League of Legends* is an irreplaceable pastime in their eyes. From seniors to freshmen, it is a passion which has been "perfected" over the years. It does face some opposition, but it is safe to assume that despite allegations of causing bad grades, *LoL* is a game enjoyed by many and will remain a choice for gaming as long as a computer lab is present on the Hill of Happiness. T



A bird's eye view of the battlefield that *League of Legends* players stare at for hours!



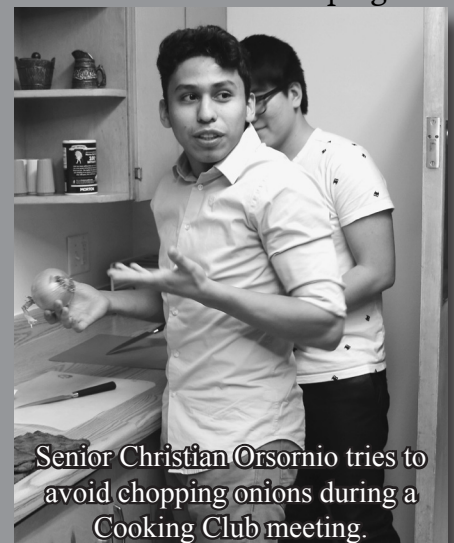
Students put their clicking power to the test in the computer lab.

## Clubbing it up at SLS

By: Ronnie Nguyen

Clubs are an integral part of life on the Hill at St. Lawrence Seminary. Some clubs have been offered at St. Lawrence for a considerable number of years. Other clubs have just appeared within the past few years. Either way, clubs provide a different way for students to learn more, develop their skills, and express their talents. One club that has been offered at SLS for a time is the International Club, supervised by Mr. Jeff Krieg. The club focuses on learning about other, lesser-known nations, their cultures and histories. Another club that has been on the Hill for a while is the Venture Scouts, supervised by Mr. Chad Dowland. The club emphasizes the development of a student's character and leadership, as well as the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities like camping. Mr. Dowland also supervises the Movie Club, which chooses movies for the whole student body to enjoy on the weekends. Although most clubs on the Hill are open to any student, the Cooking Club, supervised by Mrs. Katie Daane, is only open to seniors due to space limitations. The club's intent is to provide seniors with the basic culinary skills necessary in life after SLS.

Some newer clubs on the Hill include the Math Club and the Literary Magazine. The Math Club, supervised by Ms. Jamie Stephanie, aims to help students learn more about math and, in particular, be more prepared for math meets. Sophomore Adolfo Mora explained, "I wanted to improve my understanding of math and succeed at math meets." Another new club on the Hill is the Literary Magazine, supervised by Mrs. Katie Daane. The club's objective is to allow students to express their artistic talents and put them out there for all to see. Senior Christian Osornio said, "I hope the club will really take off and inspire other students through talent, hard work, and dedication." Whether it is a club that has been around for several years or one that is just beginning, students at SLS have a lot of different opportunities to join others and participate in engaging activities outside of the school day. T



Senior Christian Osornio tries to avoid chopping onions during a Cooking Club meeting.



Faculty and Staff

# SPOTLIGHT

By: Tyler McFadzen

## Mr. Sebastian Vervaeck

**Q. Where did you grow up? What was your family like?**

*A. I was born in Bonheiden, Belgium, and I lived there until I was eight. Because of my father's work, we moved to Saudi Arabia until I graduated from SLS. My mother was born in Chile, and my father was born in Holland. I have one brother.*

**Q. What was your father's job?**

*A. He was actually a salesperson for a British armaments company. So, wherever jobs were offered, he took them.*

**Q. Why SLS? How was it being an international student?**

*A. I found out about SLS from students in Al-Kohobar in Saudi. Fr. Dennis Druggan and Fr. Gary Wegner actually came to my house and recruited me. I liked SLS a lot because it was easy to adapt to; people were very welcoming. It was just a good fit.*

**Q. How did you end up back at SLS?**

*A. After graduation, my dad moved to Santiago, Chile. One of the bad parts was that, at the time, my Spanish was not that good, so going to college there seemed impossible. Fr. Dennis then offered me a job as residential staff member helping Mr. Lou in the dorms.*

**Q. How did you end up being a soccer coach?**

*A. It was funny: I actually just agreed to whatever they asked me to do. I have coached soccer for the past 13 years and about half of that was with the JV team, but I enjoy varsity more.*

**Q. What do you think is something people do not know about you?**

*A. Well, I was always very fortunate to travel a lot. I was able to visit France, Italy, Austria, Egypt, Singapore, and South America. I have had*

*somewhat of a backward life; usually people do their traveling later but I was fortunate enough to do it early.*

**Q. What is your job now at SLS?**

*A. I work in the development office. I work with donors, saying all the "please"s and "thank-you"s that they most definitely deserve. I also offer a lot of enthusiasm in working here. T*



## Br. John Willger

**Q. Where did you grow up? What was it like?**

*A. I grew up on a small farm in northern, rural Wisconsin, a place called Rice Lake. I had thirteen other siblings.*

**Q. What was it like growing up with 13 kids in your family?**

*A. It was great, but there were a few problems. Older kids could go places the younger kids couldn't. When we would get a candy bar, we would have to split between all of us. One of the best parts was that we always ate as a family; everyone did their part—a task is light when shared by many.*

**Q. How did you find out about St. Lawrence Seminary? What did you do after attending St. Lawrence?**

*A. I found out about St. Lawrence through the School Sisters of Notre Dame who taught me in grade school. After I finished school at St. Lawrence, I went right into the pre-novitiate for the Capuchin-Franciscan order.*

**Q. What was your best experience while being a novice? Was the order much different back then?**

*A. As a novice I loved making maple syrup because then I could stay up later than everyone else could; I thought I was so cool. When I first joined the order, the Capuchins were much stricter, we had no T.V.s and even our mail was screened.*

**Q. How did you end up back at SLS? What was your best teaching experience?**

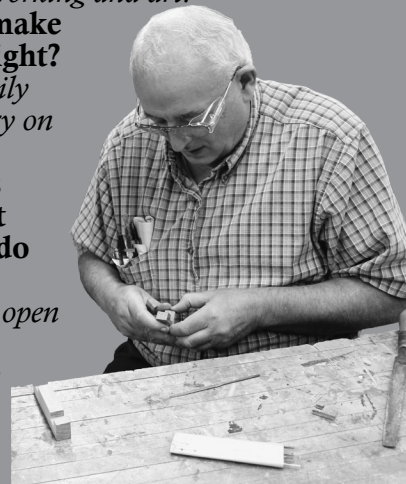
*A. I was assigned by the Province of St. Joseph right away to work at St. Lawrence. I think my best time teaching was when I developed the Design and Processes class because then I could combine woodworking and art.*

**Q. Why do you always make Lefse for ethnic foods night?**

*A. Well, it is a Czech family tradition that I want to carry on for as long as I can.*

**Q. What do you think is something people do not know about you? What do you offer to SLS?**

*A. I honestly think I am an open book; everybody knows everything about me. I have nothing to hide. The main thing I offer to SLS is my availability. If I were not around so much, people would have an extremely hard time finishing projects for not just my classes, but for others as well. T*





Student

# SPOTLIGHT

By: Edem Tagbor

## Matthew Mortell (Freshman)

**Q. How did you hear of SLS and what was your reaction when you first arrived on the Hill?**

*A. My dad is a graduate of SLS and my brother is currently a junior here. I was nervous when I first arrived because apart from my brother, I did not know anyone. I was also excited at the same time.*

**Q. What do you enjoy doing at SLS?**

*A. I enjoy participating in sports, especially cross-country. I like going to the canteen and hanging out with my friends. I also enjoy the movies usually shown in Tony's Place.*

**Q. What do you look forward to as the year progresses?**

*A. I want to be smarter and become a better person overall. I am looking forward to the winter sports season, especially wrestling in which I hope to participate.*

**Q. How do you view your class?**

*A. There are some very energetic individuals in my class.*

**Q. How do you like it so far and what has been your biggest challenge?**

*A. So far I like it here. My biggest challenge is balancing my academics with cross country.*

**Q. What is your favorite food?**

*A. My favorite food is Volcano Chicken*

**Q. What is your favorite hobby?**

*A. Biking.*

**Q. Who is your favorite athlete?**

*A. I enjoy soccer, but my favorite athlete is football star Clay Matthews.*

**Q. Who is your role model?**

*A. My role model, I would say, is my grandpa. T*



## Anthony Coompson (Senior)

**Q. How did you hear of SLS?**

*A. I started looking at other high schools during my freshman year in Tunisia. I finally settled on SLS because both my brother and aunt live in Milwaukee and I would be close to them.*

**Q. What do you enjoy doing on the Hill?**

*A. I enjoy playing sports, being active, hanging out with classmates, and relaxing during the weekends.*

**Q. What has been your biggest challenge so far in the past three years?**

*A. For me, it has been reconnecting with my friends in Tunisia, where I lived for almost nine years before coming to the United States.*

**Q. As a senior what do you think of the current freshman class?**

*A. I believe the class has potential and most of the members are disciplined. In general, the class is a good class.*

**Q. What do you hope to become in future?**

*A. My dream is to be a mechanical engineer.*

**Q. What is your favorite movie?**

*A. It is Think Like a Man Too.*

**Q. What is your favorite food?**

*A. My favorite food is Fufu (a dough-like dish) and groundnut soup.*

**Q. What is your favorite hobby?**

*A. My favorite hobby is playing video games.*

**Q. What is your favorite sport?**

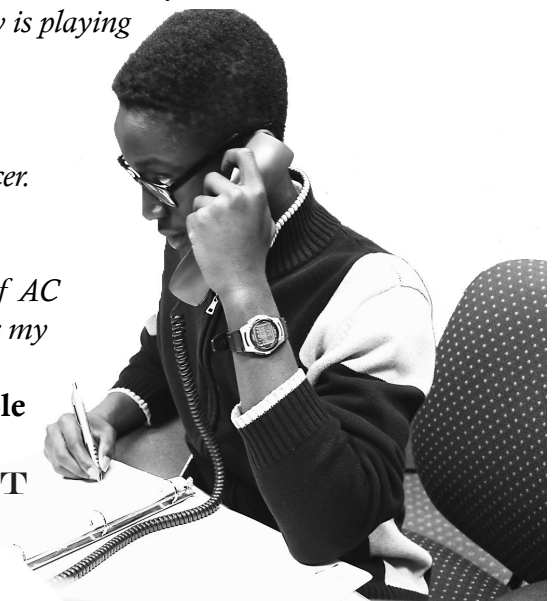
*A. I love playing soccer.*

**Q. Who is your favorite athlete?**

*A. Michael Essien, of AC Milan soccer fame, is my favorite athlete.*

**Q. Who is your role model?**

*A. Nelson Mandela. T*







## By the numbers...

By: Isaias Godinez

**340** The number of new window panes in St. Anthony Hall.

The seating capacity of the current auditorium.

**384**

**1** Number of present-day students (just sophomore Nick Le) who currently live in Vietnam.

The number of ways you can enter St. Fidelis Hall. Can you figure out where they all are?

**7**

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