

HILLTOPICS

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Taking in the Windy City

New Buildings, New Spirit

Prior to the last two years, it had been over 60 years since a building had been blessed or dedicated on campus. However, in the last two years, St. Lawrence Seminary has had the opportunity to rededicate St. Anthony Hall (the freshman and sophomore dorm) and St. Mary Hall (primarily the refectory and junior dorm). Throughout the first few weeks of October, however, St. Lawrence also blessed and dedicated the newly rebuilt St. Joseph Hall and the renovated St. Thomas Hall, bringing to completion two-and-a-half years of remodeling and rebuilding.



Fr. Michael Sullivan blesses the cornerstones with consecrated oil.

On Sunday, October 2nd, the St. Lawrence community, including faculty, staff, students and special guests began the day with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Fr. Michael Sullivan, Provincial Minister of the Province of St. Joseph. Fr. Gary Wegner, the Vicar Provincial, served as homilist. At the end of Mass, the entire congregation processed out of the chapel and followed Fr. John Holly, Rector of St. Lawrence Seminary, around the courtyard where members of the Executive Committee of the Student Council were stationed around St. Joseph Hall and blessed the new buildings with the sprinkling of holy water. After the procession, guests gathered in front of the new welcome center for St. Joseph Hall, where Fr. John and Fr. Gary blessed the cornerstones for both St. Joseph and St. Thomas Halls. Junior Daniel Sanchez, who is a student council representative, recalled the experience saying, "I had a pretty good time, especially when we blessed the new buildings with holy water." Afterwards, the students and guests at-



Fr. Zoy converses with guests from Open House.



Junior Eric Howard blesses the stone tablets.

tended a banquet lunch in the refectory. Afterwards guests had the chance to tour the new buildings and view the differences from the old halls to the new.

St. Joseph Hall, rebuilt after it burned to the ground on March 8, 2014, and St. Thomas Hall, remodeled throughout the last year, were also on display along with the rest of the campus at the Open House held the following weekend. Meant to exhibit all of the new classrooms, the Welcome Center, and the Heritage Room, this event invited the public to experience all of the changes made to the Hill during the last few years. It also allowed members of the local communities, including those who helped and responded to the fire that destroyed St. Joseph Hall, to experience the SLS community's gratitude for their help and support throughout the fire, rebuilding and dedication. During the open house, all of the students, along with other faculty and supervisors, were assigned particular areas of the newly renovated buildings to provide helpful information on the history of the area and the new features. Junior Yann Memiaghe, who worked at the Welcome Center with Mr. Lou Wappel, said, "It was good experience. I was also able to learn about the history of St. Joseph Hall myself."

During the Open House, visitors were invited to tour every part of the campus, something that rarely happens. There was lunch available throughout the afternoon in the refectory for visitors and students. Senior Jefferson Welbeck humorously recalled, "I was surprised how many people came to the 4th floor of the Main Building. That's a long way up." Many guests spoke very highly of the Open House and some even requested that it happen annually. Both the blessing/dedication and the Open House events allowed for strong bond building with the local communities, and, more importantly, they allowed everyone on the Hill to express their gratitude for all of God's blessings bestowed upon them throughout recent years.



A family takes in the Heritage Room.

Brotherhood and Bogeymen

During the final week of October, the students and faculty of Saint Lawrence Seminary participated in a variety of activities to mark Spirit Week and Halloween, including the Haunted House, hosted by the senior class, which ended the week's celebrations.

This year, three main dress up days were scheduled. They were: Twin/Doppelganger Day, where students dressed alike and attempted to confuse a few staff members as well as each other; Nerds vs. Jocks Day, a classic rivalry that spans all of time and the endless struggle of brain vs. brawn; and Halloween Costume Day.



Students surround the flag in a game of Capture the Flag.

After school during Spirit Week, students joined their fraternity members to participate in some friendly competition and other unique events. These events ranged from a game of Capture the Flag, to pumpkin carving, cake decorating, and pizza making. These events really worked to strengthen the bonds between the various fraternity members. Junior Bryant Nguyen stated, "I was able to bond with my fratmates, such as Nathan Ocon."

Toward the end of Spirit Week, Halloween was celebrated. This is special on the Hill. Dressing up for the chance to go trick-or-treating is typically frowned upon by most people when kids come of a certain age, but on the Hill, it is encouraged that students participate in after school trick-or-treating. It is completely fine to dress up as a Best Buy employee (a simple blue polo and khakis), to going all out and hopping into the skin of your version of what a real Boogeyman would look like. With their best impressions on, students tread the halls in search of tricks or treats from teachers and staff members.



Philip Zampino shows Mr. Holm a trick for his treat.



Seniors pose after a successful Haunted House.

The final part of Spirit Week was the Haunted House that was organized by the senior class. The setup took most of Saturday, October 29th, and engulfed much of St. Fidelis Hall. The seniors came up with a theme that was sure to scare many of the underclassmen and make a few juniors jump. The Haunted House tours were followed by a social that the whole school was invited to in the refectory. When remembering his freshman year's Haunted House, Suemeng Lor related, "I fell a lot and the seniors really scared me." This year's Spirit Week events allowed students to bond with their fraternities, have some fun scaring each other, and generally enjoy the unique experiences.



A fraternity carves out their pumpkin.

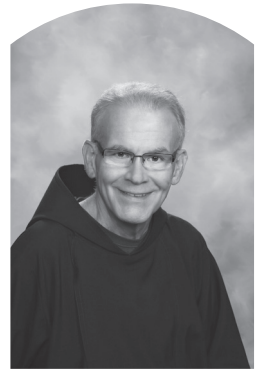


The 1st place pumpkin.

By: Mike Perez

From Then to Now

By: Fr. John Holly



This summer, Father Vernon, one of the friars who lives here on the Hill, gave me a section of the *House Chronicle* from 1872 concerning the St. Joseph statue carved for St. Joseph Hall:

“July 4: A major assignment of work for the dedication of the St. Joseph statue. All districts of the parish will come to work on Wednesday (July 4). Bring shovels and spades with you and some food as well. The wood scaffolding can then be erected on Wednesday. Show yourself hospitable to strangers. Nothing disgraceful and no drinking! The statue will be hoisted into place on Wednesday. May we already pray now that it will be put in place without any damage. The women assigned for cooking for the 4th and 7th must come already the day before to make preparations. The rest of the women should prepare some baked goods tomorrow and the day after and on Wednesday.

July 10: Solemn High Mass with Very Rev. Fr. Kundig, V.G. presiding. Then procession to the St. Joseph monument; dedication of the statue and the hall. Thanks for the energy exerted on July 4.”

What a process! Our St. Joseph statue was in place from 1872 until late 2014 after the fire. Masons from Milwaukee came and took apart the structure the statue stood upon, brick by brick and stone by stone. The materials were stored down at St. Felix Friary until this past summer. Once the new St. Joseph building was completed, the same masons from Milwaukee returned and reconstructed, with the same bricks and stones, the edifice we have now alongside the new St. Joseph’s Hall! Different from 1872, St. Joseph was returned to the top with a crane; what took hours and hours on July 4, 1872, was accomplished in less than an hour in 2016! The only changes from 1872 until now were a power wash for St. Joseph and lights that were installed so the statue would be visible at night.

The 1872 workers were local townspeople and area farmers who came together and did all the hard work after they had constructed the St. Joseph building! We owe them a great deal of thanks for their efforts. We owe a great deal of thanks to the 2014 firefighters who saved our St. Joseph statue and the structure on which it stands today—our connection to what had been the oldest building on the campus for well over 100 years. I give thanks for the blessings of our new building but am happily and humbly reminded of its origins whenever I gaze upon St. Joseph.

“Do You Know Your St. Lawrence History?”

By: Paul Jeon

St. Lawrence Seminary has been known for its long history on a small hilltop in Mt. Calvary. While most of the school’s students know the story, many families, alumni or benefactors don’t know as much about it. With the rebuilding of St. Joseph Hall, the school added a room on the third floor called the Heritage Room. Within this space is ensclosed a visual timeline celebrating and honoring the long-lasting history of St. Lawrence. The walls are filled with stories and photos (like the one displayed below) and artifacts that have remained ever since the school has started. If ever you have a chance to visit, be sure to stop by the new room.



When the need for a new friary and auditorium arose, the architect Charlie Roe convinced the friars that he could build a more suitable chapel for the renewed liturgy as envisioned by Vatican II. Thus it was decided after only twelve years of use to convert the student chapel in St. Conrad Hall into an auditorium.

The building of a new friary and chapel led to the controversial decision to tear down the old monastery church that had served Holy Cross Parish for a century. For the first time since the coming of the friars, the parish and the seminary would no longer share the Hill. The new parish church was built on land below the Hill. The sisters left the Hill and their convent would eventually be christened the St. Clare Guest House.

The aftermath of the Second Vatican Council saw an exodus of priests and brothers and the gradual closing of nearly all minor seminaries. St. Francis Brothers School was merged into the seminary in 1970 and the college program was discontinued on the Hill.

The last three decades of the twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty-first century would see a roller coaster of changes and challenges for the “Home of the Hilltoppers.” By the end of the twentieth century, the students of St. Lawrence Seminary would reflect the changing face of an immigrant Church.



STEPPING Stones TO THE PRESENT

“Celsitudo ex humilitate”

“TO THE HEAVENS OUT OF OUR HUMILITY”

(THE TITLE OF THE APOSTOLIC LETTER PROMULGATED BY ST. JOHN XXIII NAMING ST. LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI THE 30TH DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH ON MARCH 15, 1959. THIS WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE SCHOOL SEAL AS ITS MOTTO.)



Wait...Chicago?

By: Adolfo Mora

Students just could not find any time for themselves on the weekends. This was the thought that ran through many of the current SLS students' minds. For five weekends throughout September and October, the student body had been tasked with hosting different groups of family, friends, benefactors, alumni, and various other guests as their weekends were packed with various activities. Everybody had a role to play in the various events. They welcomed athletes and alumni during the Hilltopper and Alumni Reunion, parents and families during Parent Weekend, guests from throughout Wisconsin and beyond for the Open House and benefactors during the Benefactor Open House. The campus was so new to many with the introduction of the new St. Joseph Hall and freshly renovated St. Thomas Hall. The hospitality students showed to guests was outstanding, and the administrators could have not been any happier with how each event turned out with the help of the students.

Father John continuously said to the students, "Thank you so much. Your reward is near...and it is coming before heaven!" This "reward" was revealed to the entire student body on the evening of Sunday, October 23rd, when students were told that they'd not have a normal school day on Monday, October 24th. When students were at breakfast that next morning, it was revealed that the entire school would be traveling to Chicago for the day. Their first stop was Millennium Park where many took pictures with "the bean" (also known as Cloud Gate) and then ate lunch at a tent in the park (an opportunity organized by a gracious alumnus). From Millennium Park, students divided up into their respective fraternities and went with their staff mentor to enjoy the day as they pleased together.



Juniors take in "the bean."

The last time something like this happened was back in the fall of 1997 when the English Department's Mr. Anthony Van Asten ('01) was just a freshman at SLS. At that time, it was more like a field trip. Mr. Van Asten recalled, "Back then we went as a group composed of only classmates and a teacher. There was not much fraternity building back then as compared to now. We were assigned to go to the Field Museum and did not have as many options like we did this time." Fraternities were free to do whatever they decided together, as long as they made it back in time to leave. Some explored the shops at Water Tower Place, while others went up Willis Tower, previously the Sears Tower, and got a full view of Chicago, while still others visited the plethora of museums on offer in the city. Students will remember this day for many years to come.



Students enjoy the Shedd Aquarium.

Loving Mother of the World

By: Tom Vu

This fall, something unique happened—a woman who was considered by many as a saint during her lifetime was canonized as an actual saint by Pope Francis. Mother Teresa of Kolkata was canonized on Sunday, September 4th, and her feast day was officially assigned on the anniversary

of her death, September 5th. Often referred to as "the saint of the gutter," Mother Teresa was a nun with the Missionaries of Charity order, which she started in 1950. Today, the order boasts over 4,500 religious sisters in

over 200 countries. Mother Teresa spread her love through her work with the poor in Kolkata, India, by serving the poorest of the poor, including orphans, those with AIDS, lepers, and others who are marginalized. Though she died only 19 years ago, Mother

Teresa's exemplary life helped to fast track her canonization.

Pope Francis began the canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square, Vatican City, in front of a crowd of over 120,000. The Pope declared Mother Teresa a saint and everybody in attendance erupted into

cheers. Two sisters of the Missionaries of Charity then presented a relic of Mother Teresa, a vial of her blood, to the Pope. Mother Teresa, as the Pope announced she would continue to be called, was both an inspiration and a mother to all, showing kindness and hospitality to everyone. As she once said, "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." She is truly an example for all of loving the way Christ did.

**"We shall never know
all the good a simple
smile can do."
-Mother Teresa of
Kolkata**



Pope Francis processes to the canonization Mass.

Following Francis

By: Nene Lor



Saint Francis of Assisi was just an ordinary man. When he was young, he had everything that anyone could want: fame, wealth, and prosperity. He was just a young guy living an easy life because of his father's wealth and leniency. But then something happened to Francis and he saw something that he had never seen before. It was the light of God calling Francis to rebuild His church, so St. Francis did so. And it was that willingness of spirit—the one that forced him from a life of ease and comfort to one of poverty and hard work—that makes him so well remembered and loved within the Catholic tradition and beyond.

St. Francis is big icon not only to the Franciscans, but to many people, especially because of his love for the poor and lowly. However, he is especially beloved by the Capuchins who are followers of Francis's order. Because of this, on Monday, October 3rd, the SLS community invited members of the Province of St. Joseph and other guests to take part in the Transitus service. The Transitus, which means "passage through death to life," is a commemoration of St. Francis's death that is celebrated by all Franciscans. On St. Francis's deathbed, he told his disciples to pass out bread to one another and eat of it, for this was the Body of Christ. This ritual was shared at SLS's celebration, that also included special hymns and stories of Francis's life. Junior Bryant Nguyen explained, "It felt as if the Transitus were like a family dinner as we passed the bread to one another and felt as one family giving thanks to the Lord."

The following day, Franciscans and Catholics all around the world celebrated together St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day. At SLS the students, staff and guests were invited to share and rejoice in the Feast. Students had a shortened school day that was followed by Mass. Finally, the whole community shared a banquet in celebration of St. Francis. A man who was willing to give up his life of comfort to serve the lowliest of society, the least of God's people, to rebuild His church, is one who is worthy of the celebration afforded St. Francis of Assisi. He is a role model even today.

A Calling of Vocations

By: Matthew Mattes

When junior and senior year come, many students at St. Lawrence Seminary, and across the nation, focus on discerning where they want to go next in life. Those at SLS, though, are asked to think not just of colleges and future jobs, but to consider God's call to them. To help the upperclassmen, St. Lawrence provides them with a look into the life of a Capuchin and what options they have if they have discerned a calling to join the Capuchins. This is not an easy decision, and one that can take years, but it is one that St. Lawrence is committed to helping its students work through.

During the fall of their junior year, the whole junior class takes a trip to Chicago to visit two significant places for continuing their discernment of God's call. The first is St. Clare Friary, where many undergraduate students can live in community with the friars at the house. Juniors also visit Loyola University. This school houses the St. Joseph Seminary College, where they can look into joining the priesthood while attending college and earning their bachelor's degree before moving on and joining the Capuchins' postulancy program in Milwaukee (or continuing in a diocesan route). These visits as juniors can be followed by another trip the following year.

Seniors can take another step in their discernment journeys by traveling to the Loyola campus for three days to learn more about the program with St. Clare's in Chicago. While in Chicago, the seniors tour the campus of Loyola again and stay the night with the diocesan priests at St. Joseph Seminary. The next day, the students go to classes with the seminarians from St. Joseph's and eat lunch with them. In the afternoon the St. Lawrence seniors then revisit St. Clare's to learn about the college program. This program allows students to live with the Capuchins while attending the college of their choice. Senior Devin Do said, "It was an eye-opening experience in learning about how the St. Joe's students live." St. Lawrence takes pride in the discernment process that occurs on the Hill of Happiness and works to continue nurturing "the call" of any kind.



Candidates for the Capuchin Franciscan Order enter into their postulancy this fall, including Mr. William Mattes ('10) (center), an alumnus and former SLS religion teacher.

Take Me to Your Leader!

By: Gary Kim

When civilization first started, people searched for a strong leader. They looked for a leader who could protect them from an enemy, feed them when famine struck, and control them when there was a dispute. Now, leadership is prevalent—from governments to local households. Though they needn't protect from invading forces or famine, SLS, too, has leadership in the form of the student council. These leaders are chosen by the entire student body. First, the Student Council Executive Committee members are chosen at the end of the previous school year. These positions include Student Body President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The candidates seek nomination through support by a certain number of students. The candidate with the majority of votes wins the leadership position. The procedure is the same for the class-level representatives, but those elections are held once the students have returned in the fall from summer vacation.

The leaders of the student body attend regular student council meetings. "During the student council meetings," Richard Van, Student Council Treasurer, explained, "We talk about what we can augment in our school, like promoting school spirit. We also organize school events like Field Day and surprises that are yet to be prepared." The president and vice president serve as leaders of the council and represent the face of the school. This year's Executive Committee is comprised of seniors Adolfo Mora (President), Mark Valenzuela (Vice President), Richard Van (Treasurer) and Humberto Huerta (Secretary).

The leadership can be observed within each class as well. Class leaders direct class prayer, organize class parties, and participate in student council meetings to plan and execute larger events. Representatives this year for the sophomore class are Peter Hall (President), Anthony Ho (Vice President), Anthony Le (Spiritual Life Representative), and Pedro Fernandez, Ricardo Rodriguez, and John Vu (Student Council Representatives). For the junior class, leaders include Bryant Nguyen (President), Ricardo Rocha (Vice President), Marc Vargas (Spiritual Life Representative) and Daniel Sanchez, Eric Howard, and Matthew Mortell (Student Council Representatives). The senior class is represented by Julian Moron (President), Lewis Bensett (Vice President), John Zampino (Spiritual Life Representative) and Nene Lor, John Lopez, and Martin Vu (Student Council Representatives).

These members were chosen in elections held within the early days of the school year; in order for freshmen to have more time to get to know each other, their elections will be held in November.

Upon their election, the student leaders were commissioned in front of the entire school community on Thursday, September 8th, during a special prayer service. This reinforced their selection and helped the community recognize these individuals for their commitment to servant leadership. The representatives then participated in a leadership training, where they learned to work together in a skills course at Camp Anokijig in Sheboygan County on Monday, September 12th. This day allowed the students to build leadership skills as well as learn to trust one another.

Each of these students demonstrated leadership and character to prove that they can successfully lead the student body. Electing a leader in a society is a natural evolution; students picking a leader is also natural. The students of SLS depend on these leaders to represent their desires and to guide the school in positive ways. Keep up the good work, student leaders!



The student council plans out Spirit Week.



The Student Council Executive Committee.



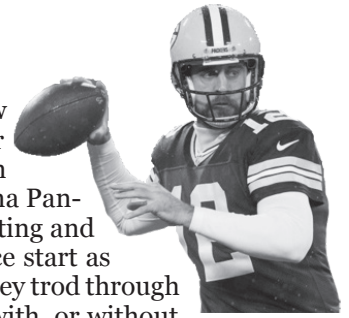
Fr. John installs the freshly elected student leaders.



Mr. Buelow congratulates Julian Moron on his position.

Back with a Bang: Football is Here

It's finally back. Football. After an offseason of about seven months, people everywhere now begin to focus on the most popular sport in America. The NCAA college football season got under way on September 4th and the first few weeks were full of fireworks. In addition, the NFL season kicked off with the first game on September 8th as the Denver Broncos squeaked past the Carolina Panthers by the score of 21-20 in a Super Bowl rematch from the year before. NFL football was exciting and action packed throughout its first weeks. The local favorite Green Bay Packers were off to a nice start as were the Minnesota Vikings. Unfortunately for Bears' fans, Chicago were struggling mightily as they trod through the beginning of their season. The New England Patriots have shown that they can get it done with, or without, their star quarterback Tom Brady, and they are the odds-on favorite to win the Super Bowl. "I'm really excited about the Patriots this year," said sophomore Gabriel Herrera, "I think that they have a really good shot at the Super Bowl."



A Patriots' player strolls past a Texan.

In college football, Alabama and Michigan again reign supreme, ranked #1 and #2 respectively in the AP top 25, and it looks like either one of them has a very good chance to take home the NCAA championship trophy. One team that is surprising so far this season is the Wisconsin Badgers. In their first game of the season, they toppled the heavily favored LSU Tigers by the score of 16-14 and continued their fine play led by their dominant defense. Wisconsin's ranking ranged from 10th to 8th throughout much of the start of their season. One thing is certain, there is much exciting football yet to be played this year.



By: Peter Hall

Are Concussions Really that Serious?

By: Yann Memiaghe

Although it is the least serious traumatic brain injury, concussions can be very detrimental to the human brain. A concussion can be best described as a direct blow, or hit to the head. Sometimes this can cause the brain to jolt, which results in subsequent damage to blood vessels and wounded nerves.

This then causes blurry vision and confusion. Concussions are typically triggered by sports and recreational activities. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and Head Case company, "Emergency room visits for concussions in kids ages 8 to 13 years old has doubled, and concussions have risen 200 percent among teens ages 14 to 19 in the last decade." Over the years, extensive research has been done in the need to avoid concussions for the safety of athletes. This has led to certain precautions and regulations, such as kids 10 years old and younger are not allowed to head the ball in a soccer game or practice. According to *Today.com*, "The U.S. Soccer Federation has issued new guidelines either banning or limiting players heading the ball depending on their age..."

The changes have come after a class-action lawsuit brought by a group of parents and players last year in U.S. District Court in California that sought rule changes preventing head injuries."

The protocol for treating concussions is present on the Hill as well. If a student should ever receive a blow to the head or blackout, it is required that he see Ms. Judith McFarland, the school nurse, and take a physical test on his balance, eye sight (with light), and hearing. If he fails the test, an imposed period of rest begins. He must be able to pass the test after the set period of rest, then, before being allowed to return to full physical and mental activity. Julian Moron, a senior who recently suffered a serious concussion, said, "I had massive headaches and I felt completely out of it during and after the blow to the head." This goes to show the significance of a concussion, no matter how it is attained, including sports, recreational activities, and simply accidents. Any injury to the head should be regarded as a grave matter and tended to with extreme care and caution.



Concussion Statistics

33% of high school athletes who have a sports concussion report two or more in the same year.

4 to 5 million concussions occur annually, with rising numbers among middle school athletes.

47% of all reported sports concussions occur during high school football

1 in 5 high school athletes will sustain a sports concussion during the season.

From Teammates to Brothers

By: Carlos Núñez

At the beginning of the fall season, both the cross country and soccer teams had to work at their chemistry and develop their skills. Running through the season, students on the cross country team built a family of friends who worked to challenge and support one another. The regular season came to an end with the Lancer Invite on Tuesday, October 11th, where the JV and varsity teams each took 6th place, while senior Roberto Silva placed 12th and junior Wilson Burge placed 13th. At the sectionals race on Friday, October 21st, the team placed 12th. Roberto Silva and Wilson Burge were top finishers in 12th and 13th respectively. This race was the team's final race of the season. Ike Mba, a senior but rookie runner, said, "I loved having Mr. Holm and Mr. Buelow as coaches, and this season was an experience that I will always remember."

Dribbling along to their goal for success, the SLS varsity soccer team ended their regular season with a conference record of 12 wins, 0 losses, and 2 ties. They knew then that they had tied Winnebago Lutheran Academy for the Flyway Conference Championship. Going into regionals, Isai Luevano, a senior and varsity co-captain, said, "Eventually I know that this season will come to an end, so I'm trying to enjoy it as much as possible and make it enjoyable for others as well." The season continued for four more games as SLS faced and easily knocked off both Mayville and St. Mary's Catholic, by scores of 6-0 each time, therefore clinching the Regional Championship title. They then faced Lourdes/Valley Christian, where they won 6-0 once again. The team advanced to the Sectional Finals where they faced Winnebago Lutheran Academy. In a well-matched game that extended into the second overtime period, it was a heartbreaking loss when WLA scored on a free kick, ending the Hilltoppers' post-season run. But no matter how they did as a team or individually, there was much for which all of SLS's fall athletes could be proud.



The Hilltoppers pose after winning the Conference title.

Winter Sports Preview

As fall breezes quickly through, many students' attention turns to the winter sports season. So we asked players and coaches alike what they were looking forward to. Here are their responses to the question, "What do you want to do during this winter sports season?"

Luis Flores- "I want to make the varsity basketball team."

Suemeng Lor- "I want to have a positive record [in basketball] by the end of the season."

Carlos Núñez- "I want to star on JV basketball or make varsity."

Jean-Paul Ajide- "I'd like to have a winning [basketball] season."

Richard Van- "I want to help the new wrestlers."

Coach Chad Dowland- "I want to work with the new JV basketball players and enjoy the competition."

Eric Howard- "My goal is to be able to dunk by the end of the season."

Ike Mba- "Get more playing time, possibly be a starter, and beat a record [in basketball]."

Coach Dave Bartel- "As the varsity basketball coach, I would like to know that the team I have at the end of the season is better than the one I started with at the beginning."

Eric Isken - "I want to spend time with the new [wrestling] team."

Jack Jacobson- "I want to break the 3-point record."

Nathan DeLeon - "I want to make the basketball team and beat the assist record."

Marcelino Jean- "I want to improve on using my left hand [on the court]."

Coach Phil McCabe- "I want to help improve our new and returning wrestlers."

Alex Thao- "I want to make the basketball team and score at least 15 points by the end of the season."

By: Isaac Villegas

Cardistry, Astronomy and Anime... Oh My!

By: Alejandro Reyes

All schools have their share of clubs and activities to join outside of class time. St. Lawrence is no different, especially with the recent increase of new clubs offered to all students. These new clubs give students ideas and opportunities to do what they enjoy with others who hold common interests. The already established clubs offer the same. Some of the already existing clubs include Cooking, International, and Math Club. The Cooking Club is led by Mrs. Katie Daane and is exclusive to seniors, where they propose foods to prepare and then do so in the Guest House kitchen. The International Club is led by Mr. Jeff Krieg, where students of all classes may gather to learn about different, unique nations and their cultures. Math Club is led by Ms. Jamie Stephanie, during which students practice new math problem and skills, which are often later used in math meets.

The new clubs of St. Lawrence are very unique in what they offer. Some include Cardistry, Astronomy, and Anime Club. Such new clubs are required to be led by a junior or senior student and aren't usually restricted in content. Cardistry Club is centered on learning elaborate card tricks. It is led by junior Tom Vu. Astronomy Club is where students gather on clear nights in the Observatory to examine the sky as well as obtain a better understanding and appreciation for it. This club is led by senior John Zampino. He said, "It's been a while since the last Astronomy Club at SLS, not since the freshman year of the Class of 2016. So it's fun to bring it back." Anime Club, a fairly popular new offering, focuses on different types of Anime (Japanese animation) enjoyed by students and offers them a place to watch the interesting titles. This club is led by juniors Adrian Gonzales and Daniel Solorzano.

Despite the work involved in making your dream club a reality, it can be something very worthwhile to create a time and space to do what you and others enjoy. Other clubs are expected to surface in the coming year such as Art or even a Chess Club. The makeup of clubs on the Hill seems limited only by the students' imaginations and their willingness to make them a reality.

E-Sports, the New Version of the Things We Love

This year, the *League of Legends* world championship quarterfinals event was held at the Chicago Theater. *League of Legends*, a massive online roleplaying game, is played by people all over the world, including SLS students. A group of six SLS students attended the quarterfinals event over their home weekend. You may be thinking to yourself, why would someone pay to go see other people play video games? Well, as junior Isaac Davison put it, "It is about the atmosphere of being at the event. Yes, you could sit at home and watch it, but being there makes a lot of difference in the overall experience."

Recently, hundreds of thousands of people have gained an interest in E-sports events associated with a plethora of different games, namely *League of Legends*, *Dota 2*, and *Counter Strike: Global Offensive*. These are becoming popular since it is now possible to show competitive events on the internet through live streaming sources, such as Twitch or YouTube. With these events being easy to watch, more teenagers and young adults can enjoy them and often end up paying to go see one of these events live. Some of these games are so popular that they even get higher viewer counts than professional sports. As an example, in 2014, ESPN 3 streamed the *Dota 2: The International*, their major, worldwide game tournament. It ended up getting more viewers in one day than the 7th game of the NBA finals that year. E-sports are on the rise, and due to how easy it is watch them without needing to buy a specialized subscription, they will likely keep growing in popularity among college- and high-school-aged students.



The stage is set for the *League of Legends* World Championships.

These games also have an effect on the cultures of the world. Certain parts of the world embrace video gaming in different lights. These games have come to dominate the lives of the people who play them in Korea, the U.S., and many countries in Europe. At a gaming convention over the summer, people from around the world, mainly young adults, came dressed in the outfits of their favorite characters from video games. These games are starting to change the traditional views on what qualifies as a sport, and people are slowly starting to accept the change.

By: Joseph Hable

Looking to the Future

By: Wilson Burge

In life we are constantly making new decisions. In our youth, when we are most ambitious about our futures, we are always thinking about that next step in our lives. For middle school students, the decision of which high school to attend is a key one. Then those students must decide which classes to take and how they can challenge themselves. As they progress through their high school years, they approach the time when they have to make one of the largest decisions of their lives. This choice is selecting a college.

At St. Lawrence, 100 percent of our graduates move on to college or military careers. This is true not only because SLS is known to have well-rounded students, but also because they are well informed of their options and have considered their best routes. To ensure that each student has the opportunity to absorb information regarding possible college choices, the guidance counselor, Mrs. Jane Lefeber, organizes college recruiter visits. These are visits by college representatives who come to St. Lawrence during the lunch hour and provide information about their school. Colleges that have visited St. Lawrence so far this year include the University of Notre Dame, the University of Dallas, Marquette University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Milwaukee School of Engineering. Senior Humberto Huerta explained the value of these visits, "It is quick and to the point. It provides me with a wide variety of information about each college in a short amount of time, which is great because I'm a busy man."

Though the focus to find the right college is mostly projected towards seniors, juniors also have to begin thinking about a college choice. In the process of applying to a college, two highly suggested and sometimes required documents to share are one's scores for the ACT and/or SAT tests, standardized tests that give colleges a better idea of how students compare academically. During their junior and senior years, students of SLS are highly encouraged to take and retake these tests to improve their scores. Students can retake these tests as many times as they want, but have to pay a fee for each test. Opportunities to take these tests begin at the start of the school year and continue through the entire school year until late spring. Juniors typically begin testing in the spring of their junior year, while seniors continue to take it through the fall and early winter. These tests are important because some colleges require a certain score on these tests before they even begin to consider you as a possible candidate for entrance to their school. Another highly suggested opportunity for SLS students to explore their college options is to take day trip on weekends to explore different college campuses. This opportunity is also made possible through the work of Mrs. Lefeber who organizes some of these trips for students to explore their possible future colleges.

Getting into college isn't easy and certainly requires a lot of work. A lot of that work is taking place right now among SLS students. The tough job of being accepted, though, doesn't just start in their junior or senior year. All throughout their high school careers, students should be thinking about how their effort and involvement will earn them the future they hope to have through admission to the college of their choosing. It is never too early to start (or continue) planning.



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Numbers to Keep in Mind

