

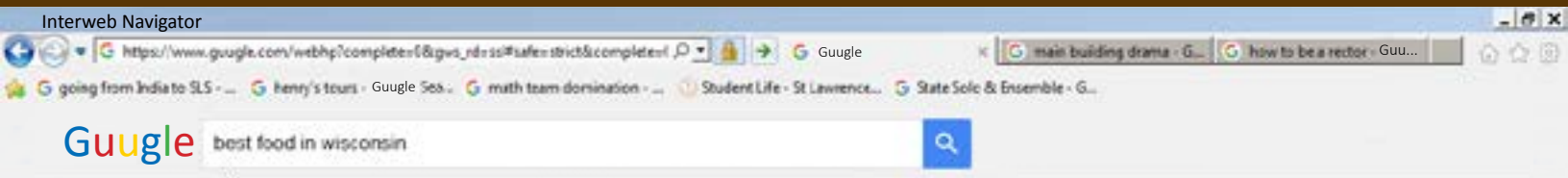
HILLTOPICS

Volume 51

Issue 5

April 2016

Student Publication since 1965



Cultural Heritage Night



31 reviews

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\$\$ Montenegrin, Indian, Vietnamese...



Mr. Anthony Van Asten said: "Although the reubens at the German table were delicious, we got most of our food from the Vietnamese table. Those spring rolls were amazing. I think I was Vietnamese in another life..." [Read More](#)



Mr. Kevin Buelow said: "I believe as a German teacher I have the right to be biased and vote for the German group." [Read More](#)



Mr. Jeff Krieg said: "The atmosphere and the food were both wonderful. I always enjoy the wide variety of food prepared." [Read More](#)



Mr. Dave Bartel said: "I enjoyed all of the different foods, but I ate too much..." [Read More](#)



Henry the Hilltopper said: "I liked the students and the ambience, but my stomach wasn't so happy with the various foods..." [Read More](#)

Today 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm **Open now**

Full menu

Price range 1-3 Tickets

More business info

Take-out **No**

Good for **Seminarians**

Parking **Private**

Good for Kids **Yes**

Good for Groups **Yes**

Attire **Casual**

Ambience **For young adults**

Noise level **Boys will be boys**

Alcohol **Zero tolerance**

Outdoor Seating **Not during winter**

Wi-Fi **Sometimes**

Has TV **Yes**

Appropriate for Freshmen **Yes**

Dog friendly **No**

National Honor Society

It comes as no surprise that St. Lawrence Seminary, being an institution that fosters leadership skills and promotes academic excellence, is home to its own National Honor Society (NHS) chapter. Officially established in 1921, NHS is the nation's premier organization founded to recognize outstanding high school students. Those admitted into their local NHS chapters are selected based on their demonstrated abilities in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character, each of which are key components of St. Lawrence's Mission and Values Statement. Those chosen to be inducted into the chapter each year properly exemplify these qualities and demonstrate the potential to promote them in the student body. To that end, eight SLS students were inducted as new members of the NHS on Friday, March 5th. They were senior Jae Beom Lee and juniors Gary Kim, Isai Luevano, Jose Mercado, Adolfo Mora, Timothy Nguyen, Alex Pizaña, and Brian Tang. The ceremony began with a line of speeches given by current members of the society, each highlighting a value that all members of the NHS are required to exemplify. Afterwards, the inductees signed their names into the register of the society.

Being a member of the NHS is a privilege that starts with responsibility. Between maintaining high grades, leading outside of class, and tutoring peers after the bell sounds, the responsibilities might make for a heavy load. But the newly inducted members of the NHS have shown that they can do the job.



By: Kamsi Nwanebo

Political Fun, Anyone?

What do you like to do with your free time? Chances are your answer has nothing to do with writing, politics, or public speaking. But for a certain senior, the answer is all three.

On Sunday, January 24th, the county-level American Legion Oratory Contest was held at St. Lawrence Seminary. Senior John O'Neill participated in this oratorical contest sponsored by the Abler Engel Post 454, and he qualified for the district competition. This contest requires contestants to give eight-to-ten minute speeches relevant to a discussion of the Constitution of the United States of America.

According to Mr. Jeff Krieg, SLS history teacher who helped coordinate John's participation, said, "The contest is very notable, as winners progress to the state and national level." On top of their prepared speech on the Constitution, contestants needed to perform an impromptu speech based on one of five randomly selected articles or amendments of the Constitution. In his first contest, John talked about how voting is more of an obligation rather than an option according to the Constitution. After he heard the news that he qualified for the next level, John took a relieved breath and started preparing for the next contest.

At St. Mary's Springs Academy in Fond du Lac on Sunday, January 31st, John won the district competition and again moved on to the next level. On Saturday, February 13th, John participated in the regional and state competitions, which were held on the same day at Ripon College. John won his regional round (consisting of 12 competitors) and took third place (against 4 competitors) at the state competition. With each level of advancement, John not only earned scholarships for college, but he also represented the brown and gold community admirably. Congratulations on your success, John!



John poses for a photo as the district champion.

Below is an excerpt from John's award winning speech:

"... Failing to vote goes hand-in-hand with a much larger problem in government. According to *The Nation*, a political magazine, 32% of seats up for election in 2012 were run unopposed. How can an elected official, with dropping approval ratings, keep getting elected year after year, unopposed? The definition of insanity is repeating the same thing, over and over again, expecting a different result. Are we, the American voters, insane by voting (or failing to vote at all) for the same candidates year after year, expecting our stalled government to simply begin functioning again? Or is it the same incoherent candidates, who fail to represent their constituents, that has kept political gridlock in place?"

By: Gary Kim

O Brother Where Art Thou?

On the Hill, the students do many things as a class; they go swimming, have parties, and eat lunch together. But what about after school, who do they hang out with? Who do they sit with during Wednesday and Friday Mass, or at the dinner table? The answer is with their fraternity members. At SLS, a fraternity is not like a college fraternity. Rector Fr. John Holly's insight on the fraternity is that it helps new students get assimilated into the community and it "mixes us together." This year there are 17 fraternities, each containing about 3 students from each class.

"When we didn't have fraternities, it was classes-versus-classes," said Fr. John when asked about the switch to fraternities. During Field Day, it used to be class-based, so many rivalries between grade levels arose and sometimes went overboard. The fraternities helped build more of a community, based around family-style prayer, meals, and competition. In the process of picking fraternities (which change each academic year), seniors are chosen first. The seniors are the ones who will be tasked with working together to coordinate the bonding in their fraternities. As the seniors are partnered with incoming freshmen to mentor, the fraternity starts to take shape. The administrators continue to fill the fraternities, basing their decisions on ethnic diversity and personalities. Finally, each fraternity is assigned a faculty mentor who meets with the fraternity regularly and helps to check in on each student. Junior Lawton Stier said, "Frats are good for freshmen because they help them get to know the SLS system." The fraternity structure is good for helping freshmen and new students acclimate, as well as creating a supportive structure for all the students of SLS.

By: Matthew Mattes



Fraternity XIII engages in an icebreaker during an evening prayer.



Fraternity VIII gets ready for Winter Carnival.

Work Hard, Play Hard

Work crews are a central part of life for students on the Hill of Happiness. Many of the students clean various parts of the school. Freshmen complete their work crew in the refectory, cleaning dishes, wiping down the tables, or setting up the meal. These work crews take place after dinner or before breakfast on Sunday. The rest of the student body does something else, like receiving phone calls in the Information Office, working in the canteen, or supervising the computer lab. Other unique areas across campus that students are responsible for include opening and locking the campus, working in the sacristy, and creating the worship aids used every Sunday at Mass.

Although the students may complain about the tedious work, work crew is inseparable from the school. In fact, the students should be thankful for their work crew. Imagine the school without the work crew: our study halls would be dirty, classrooms would be full of recycled paper, the canteen would be disastrous, and much more. There are also financial implications. For example, the school cannot afford to employ the number of staff that would be required to replace the work crews. Mr. Kevin Buelow, the Dean of Students who also supervises the work crews, reported, "Works crews annually save St. Lawrence well over \$100,000." Work crews are not only irreplaceable, they are also beneficial. Senior Sang-Jun Ko commented, "I put my work crew experience on my college application. It was very beneficial for me." So, if you think work crew is just another tedious job, think again, because there is always something that can be appreciated about your work crew.



By: Gary Kim

A Day in the Life

By: Fr. John Holly



What does a rector do all day? A very good question and one not all that easy to answer because it changes from day to day. But, there are some constants in my day, and I'll try to explain those.

On school days, my alarm rings at 5:00 a.m.! Between 5 and 7:10, I pray and have some quiet time, eat breakfast, watch some news, plan the 7:10 Morning Prayer and get showered and ready for the day. When you head off to class at 7:25, my day starts to unfold and, really, no two days are the same. A central theme of my life is MEETINGS! Seldom a day goes by that I don't have at least one scheduled meeting.

I meet regularly with the school administration, which includes Mr. Dave Bartel, Mr. Kevin Buelow and Mr. Tim Schroeder, and each of us brings the results of meetings that we attend with others. Certainly over the past years, construction meetings of various kinds have occupied a great deal of my time. The Spiritual Life Committee of adults meets weekly to discuss our liturgical life and religious formation on the Hill.

"Bi-Weekly Meetings" are held with Mr. Francisco Saucedo regarding Admissions, Recruitment and Public Relations; with Mrs. Mary Bink concerning the upkeep of the campus and planning for future projects; with Mrs. Judith McFarland concerning our Student Health issues; with Mrs. Jane Lefeber of the Guidance office; with Mr. Tom Wehner and Mr. Schroeder to discuss maintenance concerns and planning, and contact with vendors, the village and others. Finally, in his role as Business Manager for the school, I meet regularly with Mr. Schroeder. He often brings me up to date on meetings he's attended with various other staff members. We meet regularly with Chef Kevin Lackas, always looking ahead to special celebrations that are so much a part of our life here. There are always special projects that we are working on. Currently, we are beginning discussions, with a specially chosen committee, for the dedication of St. Joseph Hall along with the blessing of St. Thomas Hall and an Open House of the entire campus. These events will take place on October 2nd and 9th and will involve everyone on campus.

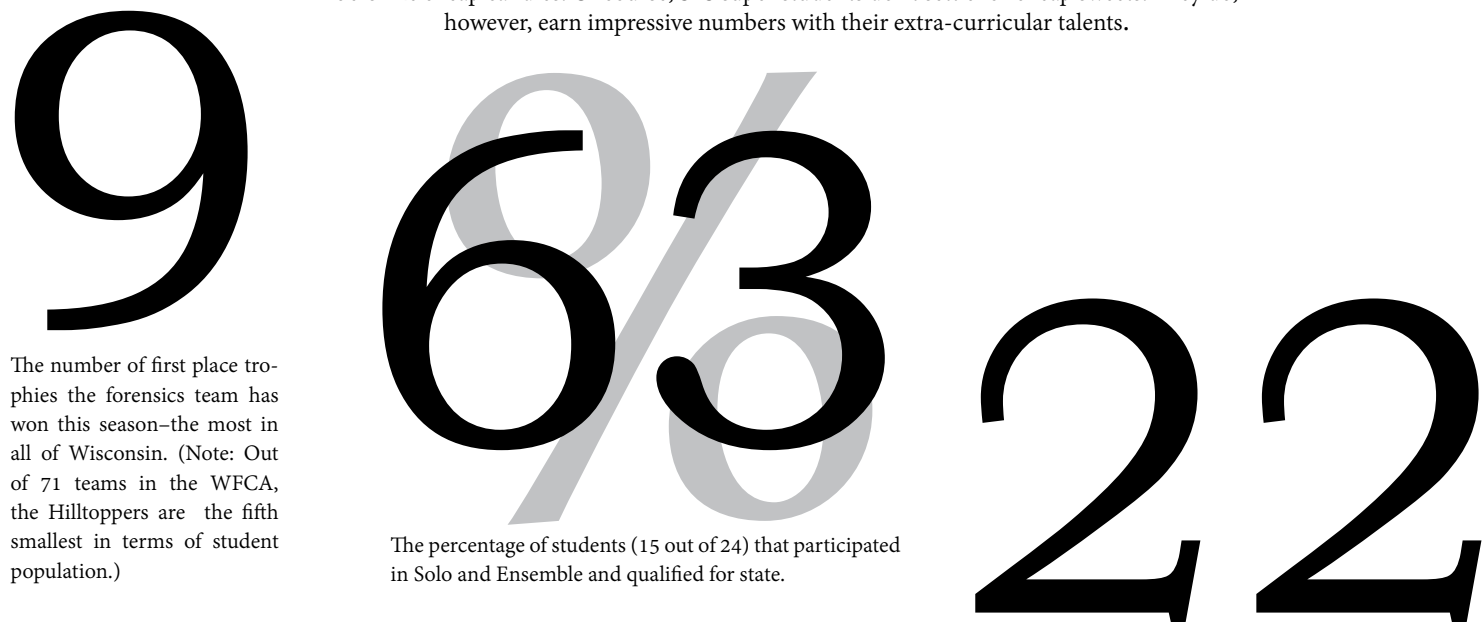
In the course of a typical day, staff members will drop by my office to discuss various things that they are involved in. There are meetings with students for all kinds of different permissions and other issues. And twice a year, I meet with each SLS student to distribute report cards.

I try to be out of the office by 4:00 p.m. until evening prayer, only to return again because there's paperwork all the time: announcements prepared for every morning, homilies to write, and donors (benefactors) to be cared for—a task the Development Office assists me with to continually let them know we are grateful for their care of us.

So, you see, there's always something to do and always something to be grateful for because this Hill is made of fantastically gifted and caring people. I'm privileged to be among them!

"Can I get your number?"

A common scene at any other high school features boys and girls trading cell phone numbers like cheap candies. Of course, SLS super students don't settle for cheap sweets. They do, however, earn impressive numbers with their extra-curricular talents.



*Information compiled by Mr. Antonio Trinidad, Mr. John Ahlstrom, and Ms. Jamie Stephanie

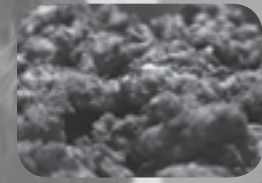
Take a Bite!

Following the renovation of St. Anthony Hall, which houses the freshmen and sophomores, St. Lawrence continued its vision of providing its students with up-to-date facilities by renovating St. Mary Hall. Though the intentions were meritorious, this building project, nevertheless, brought about several consequences. For one, the students could no longer have their meals in the school dining room, and instead they had to walk down to Maximillian's, a restaurant in the village of Mt. Calvary. This area had not been designed to accommodate more than 200 students, and there was a desperate lack of space. On top of this, St. Lawrence was forced to cancel one of its most anticipated events at the end of the school year: Cultural Heritage Night.

This year, however, Cultural Heritage Night was brought back to full swing on the night of Sunday, March 13th. The students were so full of expectation that, even weeks before the night, talks about what ethnic groups there would be and what foods would be made circled around campus. The upperclassmen were so excited that they would, once again, be able to eat great food of various cultures. On the other hand, the underclassmen—who had never experienced the tradition before—followed the leadership of the juniors and seniors with the festive preparations and similar hopes.

Once all the ethnic groups were ready to receive "customers," the students were given several tickets, which served as a currency for Cultural Heritage Night. As they walked around the refectory and exchanged tickets for their choice cuisine, the students could not mask their interest in other cultures. Many even found it difficult to decide which food to try first. In fact, a total of 13 groups made great foods to represent their cultures. Sophomore Seung Joo Lee, who was part of the Korean group, explained his astonishment at how enthusiastic the students were: "I've never seen so many different cultural foods in one room," he said. Overflowing with the fragrance of such foods, the refectory was once again filled with life.

Aside from the ostensible purpose of Cultural Heritage Night, which is to offer students a day to experience other cultures, this tradition also had many important implications. It was a channel through which St. Lawrence could celebrate its own cultural diversity—a major part of its mission and values. It instilled in the students a respect for other cultures as well as an appreciation for their own. As senior Ricardo Diaz put it, "I was very excited for the Cultural Heritage Night this year, much more so because we weren't able to have it last year...It was great to make food from my own culture, socialize, and eat what my peers cooked as well." Whether they were a part of preparing it or just enjoyed eating the cuisine, all of St. Lawrence's students had an excellent night full of great food, drink, and fraternity.



Buldak - Korean



Flautas de Pollo - Puerto Rico



Lefse - Czech



Chicken Tikka Masala - Indian



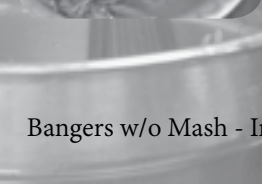
Cufte (Meatballs) - Montenegrin



Cơm Chiên - Vietnamese



Khaub Piaj - Hmong



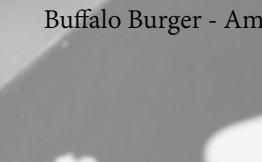
Shrimp Po' boy- Cajun



Bangers w/o Mash - Irish



Reuben - German



Torta de Milanese- Mexican



Sweet Spaghetti - Filipino



Buffalo Burger - American

By: Joseph Min

Who Are They?

A thankful reflection on what goes on behind the scenes.



Mr. Jeff Birschbach: Maintenance. We give thanks for the hands that maintain the framework of our campus. Mr. Birschbach, for example, is a master carpenter. He built the bookcases and cabinets in the Rector's Office with his own hands. The altar and lectern that are used at optional Masses are yet other works of his. If there is ever a problem with woodwork or loose nails, Mr. Birschbach has the most trustworthy hands. Thank you, Mr. Birschbach.



Mrs. Brenda Kempen: Development. We give thanks for the caring minds that maintain contact with our benefactors. Mrs. Kempen is a part of the hard-working team that goes through hundreds of benefactors' letters. Part of her job includes inputting finances into the computer and making sure that all of the numbers add up. If there is something wrong with the records, she will go through hundreds of papers to find the mistake and fix it. She also proofreads and edits the "thank you" letters that are sent back to benefactors. Thank you, Mrs. Kempen.



Mr. Noel Sippel: Maintenance. We give thanks for the friendly personalities that brighten campus even when the sun is not shining. Throughout campus, Mr. Sippel makes certain that all of the machines, gauges, and pipes are balanced so that we stay warm and safe. He also removes ice and shovels snow in order to keep walkways safe for staff and students. On top of that, he coaches the JV baseball team. Thank you, Mr. Sippel.



Mrs. Virginia Schmitz: Information Office. We give thanks for the many years of experience that answer the same questions year after year. Mrs. Schmitz's duties in the Information Office are much too numerous to list. If a student is curious and has a question about paperwork, she is the one with all the answers. When Fr. John Holly is troubled on the ins-and-outs of any procedure, Mrs. Schmitz is always there to help. She also keeps the community up-to-date by keeping track of the entire school calendar of upcoming events that students can view in their dorms. Thank you, Mrs. Schmitz.



Ms. Kelly Potratz: Buisness Office. We give thanks for those who use their intelligence to help solve problems. How many times have you had a problem with a computer? Luckily, the seminary has someone who is extremely tech-savvy and just as kind. From software updates to error pop-ups, Ms. Potratz always has a solution. Without her, technology would be a constant problem. Without her, the seminary would not be able to keep up with the fast-paced advancements of technology today. Thank you, Ms. Potratz.



Fr. Ron Smith: Spiritual Direction. We give thanks for those willing to comfort us in troubling times. For many years, Fr. Ron has been a meditative face in the back of chapel, where he patiently and happily waits to hear students' confessions. As a former counselor and current spiritual director, he always keeps students on the right track and helps deepen their personal relationships with God. His role in students' lives, however, did not always fall under that of being a spiritual director. Many years ago, Fr. Ron inspired students into being fine, young gentlemen through his actions as an English teacher and dorm prefect. Thank you, Fr. Ron.



Mrs. Esther Boehnlein: Housekeeping. We give thanks for the kindness of those willing to serve when no one is looking. Every house could use a motherly touch, even the friary, and Mrs. Boehnlein does a superb job of doing just that. She keeps the friary kitchen stocked with necessities as well as all the scrumptious treats that every SLS friar could dream of. She also performs other housekeeping chores, such as making the friars' beds. Her work also extends to the Sacristy, where she washes Purificators on a weekly basis. Thank you, Mrs. Boehnlein.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

By: Joseph Hable

Thank you for all the gifts you have given me. When I was in hard times, you were there for me. When I needed you most, you never abandoned me. During times of tribulation, you helped my get by. When adversity hit me in the face, you helped me overcome it. All that you do is merciful and kind, and we thank you for everything you do. God, you have helped us become true instruments of your peace. Amen.

Thank you from Hilltopics and the students of St. Lawrence Seminary.

By: Bryant Nguyen

A Time of Awareness

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, but it is also a phenomenal opportunity to strive for greater justice in our society. St. Lawrence worked to open the eyes of students to a terrible injustice in the United States and the world during this past Lent – human trafficking. Human trafficking is not a remote problem that a select few face, rather it affects over 21 million people around the world. A sad fact is that human trafficking, especially sex trafficking, happens frequently in Wisconsin, with Milwaukee being one of the largest human trafficking centers of the nation.

The most difficult part in regards to becoming aware of human trafficking is that it is almost impossible to notice in the United States. Terrifying facts about its presence remain true however. Over 250,000 youths remain at risk of being used sexually in the United States, with many victims being brought in by the Internet, social media, schools, malls, streets, parks, and more. Furthermore, sex trafficking alone makes over \$150 billion a year and continues to grow. After the sale of drugs and firearms, human trafficking is the number-one most profitable criminal business. Human trafficking is not as large as the firearm or drug trade, but an item like an illegal firearm or

drug is typically only sold once by any certain individual. However, a person who is forced to labor or have sex can be used repeatedly by the same perpetrator (increasing profits) until the victim dies or manages to escape.

Human traffickers are often also involved in organ harvesting. In fact roughly 7,000 kidneys per year are harvested by

those affected by human trafficking. Also, on March 15th, the entire student body watched the film *Human Trafficking*. Pope Francis said, "It is not possible to remain indifferent before the knowledge that human beings are bought and sold like goods," and so St. Lawrence has worked towards trying to create a greater awareness of the social injustice of human trafficking.

"Police who staged a raid at a Fox Valley motel in April found a 17-year-old Green Bay girl and a 14-year-old Appleton girl being sold to men for sex. The 14-year-old, who police said had seen 18 men before the arrest, would tell police that she needed money to repay a suspected pimp who had threatened her."

-Green Bay Press Gazette, June 6, 2015

human traffickers, and a human heart can go for \$90,000 to \$290,000 due to the long waiting lists for vital human organs. Another true, but scary fact is that 46 percent of the time a human trafficker is a friend or family member of the victim. Although human trafficking is not noticeable in our society, it is absolutely essential that all Catholics are aware of its existence in our world.

Human trafficking is a horrific violation of the dignity of all humans and needs to be recognized as a real issue. Therefore, at SLS numerous prayers have been said during this Lent for

A Time of Joy

Easter is always a rejuvenating season for all Catholics as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection, but it is also important to realize that it is so revitalizing because of the season that precedes it. Just as Advent helps prepare Catholics to fully enjoy Christ's Nativity, so Lent helps prepare Catholics to celebrate Christ's Resurrection. Lent is somewhat unpopular because it involves fasting, praying, and almsgiving, but why are all of these so important?

As any Catholic knows, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with an obligation to fast and abstain from meat. This practice helps ready us for the 40 days of Lent that bring Catholics to a stronger repentance for their sins. By partaking in this fast and abstaining from pleasurable habits,

Catholics try to imitate Christ's 40 days of fasting and resisting temptations in the desert. The Church also encourages doing something special for Lent, like going to Mass more often or praying a rosary a week, as a means to grow closer to Christ. Often times this part of Lent is neglected by Catholics. Many Catholics decide to simply give something up like chocolate or video games, but in reality doing something special is what is the most important part about Lent. Doing something special can include donating more money to charity, but praying more is also an essential part of becoming a better Catholic. However, the task of praying more is not simply limited to Lent. Easter can be a great time to improve one's prayer life as well, especially because it is a much more joyous season than Lent (so Catholics don't have to worry about the fasting and abstinence part that Lent includes).



Fr. Zoy leads students in creating hygiene bags.

Giving to the poor or needy through almsgiving is another way to nurture a Catholic's awareness of Christ's presence. One way that St. Lawrence gave alms during this Lent was by collecting hygiene bags to donate to women who cannot afford simple things like body wash and shampoo. As the Catechism states, almsgiving is "a witness to fraternal charity," helping Catholics see Christ in others and strengthening the solidarity of all humanity.

1 in 6 Ratio of men who have paid a woman for sex in the United States.	10 - 15 Average number of times a woman who is trafficked is sold per day.
\$150,000,000,000 Estimated annual revenue of sex trafficking.	21,000,000 Number of humans who are victims of sex trafficking around the world.
250,000 Number of youths in the United States that are in danger of sexual exploitation.	

Going off campus is an opportunity that many students look forward to for a variety of reasons. Whether for sports, ministry, or entertainment, students always carry the spirit of Calvary in how they bear themselves off campus. Taking the road away from the comforts of home can be daunting at times, but it leads to a multitude of experiences that are a part of being a Son of Calvary.

This winter was certainly a good one for wrestling! While the team did not have any state qualifiers, the Hilltoppers put on a good display of what they could accomplish individually and as a team. Though the team results were inconsistent, individuals consistently excelled at tournaments and duals. Every year, wrestlers, especially seniors, realize how much the sport has really done for them. It not only strengthens them physically, but also mentally; it prepares them to take on the challenges that they will face in the world. So, while the team may not have won every meet or tournament, wrestlers still found much value in participating in the season, and the underclassmen on the team will surely work toward continued success next year.

By: Austin Stevens

This year's basketball season was quite a good one. Last year the Hilltoppers finished the season 5-15; however, this year the varsity team finished the season strong, ending with an 11-9 record. This year's success was a great new sign for the future of the basketball program. Head coach Dave Bartel feels great about this year's season, "We had a great year—lots of improvement among the players. The team tried hard in every game and with great leadership, we made a great team." Senior basketball player Richard Lor also felt the team did well, saying, "I saw much more passion in the team and considerably better teamwork." A great team had a good finish to the year, thanks to the great effort of senior leadership and young talent.

By: Joseph Hable



HERO OF THE HILL

In 1860 Fr. Bonaventure Frey and Fr. Francis Haas succeeded in a cross-world field trip that resulted in St. Lawrence Seminary. Their brown and gold spirit has lived on ever since through Hero the Hilltopper, the seminary's beloved mascot who has recently been reintroduced to today's students. Is it a coincidence that, along with the re-emergence of Hero, the Hill welcomed a new face that bears the same features of travel, sacrifice, and faith that our founding fathers once carried?



Some brown and gold traditions confused Fr. Muthu at first—one being Hero the Hilltopper.

Who Are You?

By: Zeb Boos

When students returned to SLS for the second semester, they saw the beginning of a new year and a new face: Fr. Madalai Muthu Savariappan. Fr. Muthu, as he is known, arrived on the Hill through an affiliation with his Capuchin province in India and the St. Joseph Province which runs SLS. Looking to form a partnership that would help to bolster the number of their religious members, St. Joseph's Province reached out to several provinces that might be willing to send friars to the United States and the Province of Amala Annai (Immaculate Mary) in Tamil Nadu, India, answered the call.

Fr. Muthu is a man from humble beginnings with a deep love of God and a willingness to serve the Lord in any way he can. As a young boy growing up in Trichy, he knew that he wanted to be part of religious life, and

even when his friends tried to convince him to continue studying and obtain a degree for a lay profession, he calmly answered no. After high school he joined the seminary; he decided to become a Capuchin because of the influence of St. Anthony, who is the patron saint of his family. He found his vocation to be very fulfilling. After being ordained, something happened that changed his life. His superior in India was searching for a Capuchin to go to America, and Fr. Muthu's name came up as a possible choice. Little did he know that he would soon be experiencing a major culture shock when they assigned him to St. Lawrence Seminary of Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin.

After being on the Hill for some time, Fr. Muthu has found that he loves it here. He has a relatively active role in the day-to-day life of students. He is a study hall supervisor, a dorm supervisor in freshman dorm, and says Mass occasionally. His favorite part, he says, is presiding at Mass. As a young man,

the Mass was what really drew him into his religious vocation. Overall, he has had a wonderful experience so far, especially with the students. He says that they are very helpful and supportive. Overall, he has felt that St. Lawrence has been very welcoming. He is excited to continue his career here, except for one small thing: the Wisconsin cold. After coming from a warm environment, the winter cold was terrible, but he slowly adjusted. With such a positive outlook, Fr. Muthu's experience will, hopefully, help to strengthen the bond between the two provinces.

My Hero

By: Adolfo Mora

Through the recent reintroduction of the school Fight Song, students are able to contribute more school spirit into events, but beyond that students have experienced a revival of a former tradition. When a school is as old as St. Lawrence, there are sure to be

traditions that have lasted and others that have faded.

One unique tradition that has faded, though not completely disappeared, is the name of the school's mascot. Many students would simply refer to the school mascot as the Hilltopper. However, there is much more to him than some think, and his name is "Hero." Depicted as a mountain climber wearing lederhosen and an Alpine hat, Hero was modeled after the Swiss background of St. Lawrence's founders, Fr. Francis Haas and Fr. Bonaventure Frey. He is a model for students to follow in becoming SLS super students. As a Hilltopper, he attempts to climb to his greatest possible height, which also relates to the school's motto: "To the heights, from the depths." A familiar priest who has recently pursued the same challenge of rising to their best abilities is Fr. Muthu, a recent addition to the St. Lawrence Friary. Coming from India, he has overcome many difficulties in adapting to the United States and doing his best to help at St. Lawrence.

St. Lawrence Seminary. Third floor, Main Building. MR. JEFF KRIEG is airing his grievances to the booming guffaws of MR. ANTHONY VAN ASTEN. Their shared office seems to be in witty harmony, as they constantly exchange clever jokes and off-the-cuff remarks. The school day has ended and the two finally get a chance to relax. Enter KEVIN DANG, an obnoxiously nosy senior who has a habit of bothering teachers.

What made you want to teach for a living? What made you want to teach history?

Mr. Krieg: I have always been drawn to teaching, from the time I was a boy. I love learning! History has been my favorite subject since I was a boy. The world makes little sense if you don't understand the historical reasons for why things are the way they are. There are reasons for everything in the world. The study of history helps identify those reasons. And history is a subject you never exhaust. Cicero said, "History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity." I have tried to remind myself of those sentiments for nearly 30 years.

Do you have a clear idea of how long you'll continue your work here?

JK: I arrived here in 1987, promising to stay at least 5 years. I am now in my 28th year. SLS holds a special place in my heart and, at this stage, I can't fathom working anywhere else. Years ago in the Church you often heard the expression, "There's no rest until eternal rest." I want to contribute something here as long as I am able.

How would you describe Mr. Van Asten as a student? As a yearbook editor?

JK: Mr. Van Asten was an outstanding student and yearbook editor. The quick humor he often exhibits was already part of his

throughout. Mr. Van Asten led the effort to create "ghost images" in pictures, which was a huge hit with the students. I also remember, however, having to replace the color on the color pages. Mr. Van Asten had used a type of color that our publisher would have charged us hundreds of extra dollars to use. I changed the color to the colors that were free!

How would you describe the atmosphere of the third floor office that you guys share?

JK: The atmosphere is usually wonderfully relaxed. It is always a positive to return to the office after classes and exchange stories or have a good laugh. Mr. Van Asten, like his brothers, does not seem to run out of humorous stories. We often exchange critiques of movies or books and can recreate scenes in any number of films, right down to dialogue. It's amazing how much of our shared experience in teaching high school can be related to films or books. There's no value that can be placed upon colleagues who care, listen and provide some lighter moments in often stressful days.

What is the thing that annoys you the most about Mr. Van Asten?

JK: Do you have a page to set aside for that? I could mention his cell phone ringtone (the Paris bistro music, which is actually less obnoxious than the previous one), printing 54 double-sided copies on the slowest copier on campus (and having it jam three times) or the banana peels, apple and pear cores and orange peels in the garbage can (complete with fruit flies). I could mention bike equipment, changes of clothes and spandex pants or those little magnetic letters on the front of his desk...or the hand-written "Levi" (made by his son Levi) that's been on the side of the desk for many, many, many months. But



I won't get into any of those things. In all seriousness, the real Mr. Van Asten is what students see all the time.



What made you want to teach for a living? What made you want to teach English?

Mr. Van Asten: Working my way through college and imagining my future, I couldn't think of another job I wanted. I had always enjoyed working with young people (I taught swimming lessons in the summertime during high school, volunteered with kids attending Muscular Dystrophy camp, coached grade-school basketball and worked with kids with autism). Teaching seemed to be the next logical step.

As far as English, I'd always loved my English classes at St. Lawrence—especially Modern World Literature and Literary Genres with Mr. Lou. I'm also proud to be a founding member of the Reading Club.

What's the most enjoyable aspect of your day?

AV: Drinking my perfectly-brewed coffee...unless I can get out for a bike ride, then it's the bike ride. Or telling everyone about the bike ride I just took.

Do you have a clear idea of how long you'll continue your work here?

AV: Initially, my plan was to teach here for four years. I didn't want my teaching experience to overshadow my memories as a student. But my four years were up four years ago. My wife thinks I'll be here forever and my kids are asking if I'll be their teacher.

How would you describe Mr. Krieg as a teacher? As a yearbook advisor?

AV: Mr. Krieg is like a Samuel L. Jackson character: real tough on the outside, loud and kind of scary... but underneath a good guy who's

surprisingly calm, cool and collected. Cool like the Fonze. He could be a... role-model.

How would you describe the atmosphere of the third floor office that you guys share?

AV: I think of us like one of those cop shows where you've got two detectives who are of completely different personalities who are forced to work together. You know, the younger, handsomer, more capricious officer ready and eager to



bust some punks vs. the older, wiser, grey-haired officer more likely to know if there are donuts in the station anywhere. Crime gets fought and hilarity ensues. And usually it's the older officer who comes to the rescue of the younger officer. That's been my experience. But thank God I share an office with one of the most organized people on campus.

Is it odd going from student to co-worker of Mr. Krieg?

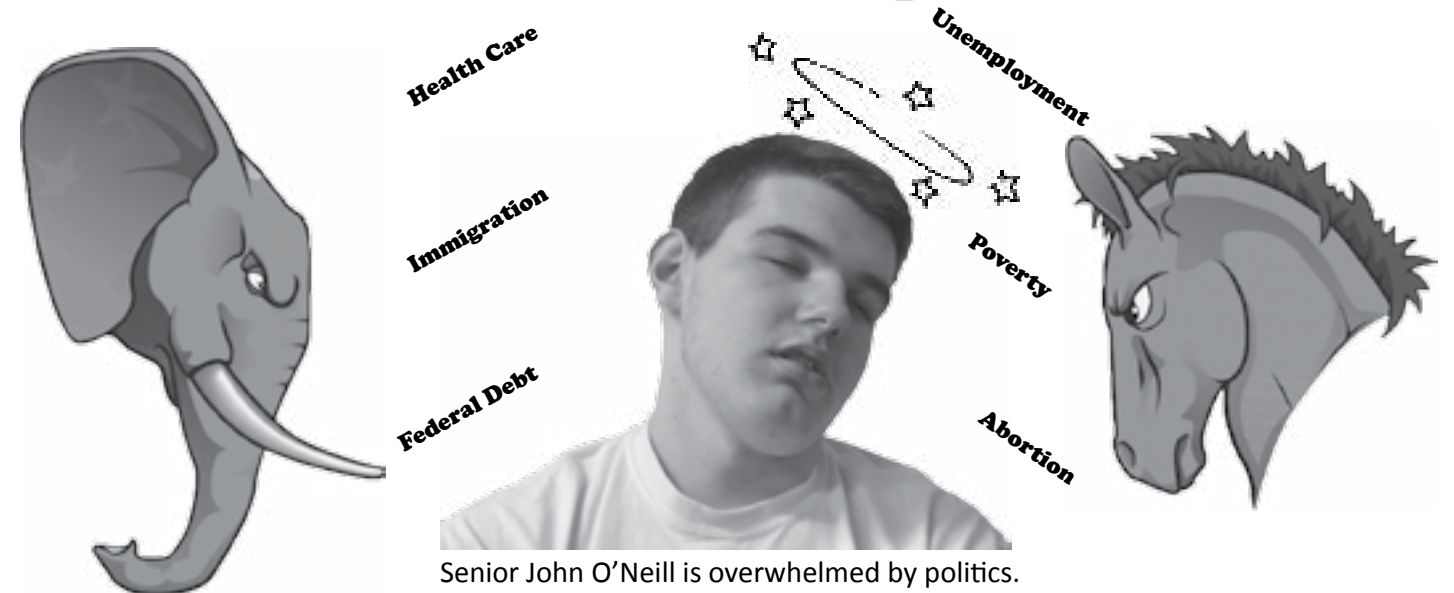
AV: No. From the start Mr. Krieg treated me as an equal. (I'm sure he rolls his eyes at me often behind my back.) I suppose it helped that I had been one of his yearbook editors and a fellow sacristan. Watch out, Kevin Dang... you're on track to be sitting in this office some day.

What is the thing that annoys you the most about Mr. Krieg?

AV: The shirts. Every day it's the same color. I'm convinced it's either the same shirt and he does laundry every night, or he's got 180 identical shirts and only does his laundry once a year.

And as long as I'm airing my grievances, let me talk about the flags. They're everywhere. And no one can touch them. And I'm just supposed to know what country each one is for? When my kids are out here with me, they all want to touch the flags on Mr. Krieg's shelves, and I'm like, "DON'T you EVER touch those!"

2016 Presidential Race: Knockout Stage



Senior John O'Neill is overwhelmed by politics.

Have the 2016 elections got you feeling confused? Do you have the feeling that there is just not a suitable candidate in the running for the leader of our country? These are sentiments that are shared every election cycle by voters and citizens nationwide. One of the best ways to combat feelings of doubt or confusion regarding the elections is to both figure out what your political platform consists of and then to become educated on the platforms of candidates on both sides of the spectrum.

A crucial point in designing one's political platform is first to realize what political issues and opinions are important to him. An average Christian, for example, may take some viewpoints of the Church regarding immigration, abortion, and welfare. Then, that person would decide which issues are most important to him and why. Finally, he would probably find a political party or candidate that shares the same beliefs.

This past summer, there were more than 15 candidates running in the Republican primary election for president. Fifteen candidates are obviously more than a single person could handle when it comes to comparing and contrasting political viewpoints. Compare this to the Democratic primary, where there are

only two serious candidates who have been competing for votes. This is when extremes come in to play. With so many candidates in the Republican race, some candidates thought it best to make their platforms seem as extreme as possible, by holding far-out opinions and points of view. This way, one or two candidates would be more memorable than the other average candidates. Now, in the Democratic Party, with such a low number of frontrunners, often the candidates will hold very different opinions on certain subjects, while maintaining the spirit of the Democratic platform within their viewpoints. But this tactic has the same desired outcome as the first: being memorable.

Anyone who says they are not interested in politics is like a drowning man who insists he is not interested in water.
-Mahatma Ghandi

There's an old phrase in news media and politics that "any publicity is good publicity." This idea thrives off the American populace's ability to "forget" important details about news stories while focusing on the candidate as an individ-

ual. Almost every political race has some mudslinging going around (attack ads, name-calling, etc.), but when a newspaper runs a candidate's name, it is like having a billboard for free. Since there is such a large number of uninformed voters in the United States, it means that simply having name recognition, positive or negative, will help at the polling place.

Such naïve understandings of the political process and failing to understand a politician do more harm than good in the government. One of the many reasons why there seems to be so much political gridlock in Washington, D.C., is because there are so many elected officials who cannot, or wish not, to work together on creating policies. Much of this can be avoided by electing candidates who genuinely wish to utilize the diverse opinions in the U.S. to their advantage. This is why knowing how to judge a candidate is so important: our decisions as voters determine the fate or destiny of the nation. We have a great responsibility to use the voting power in an efficient and intelligent way. The best way to vote responsibly is to become informed and educated on every candidate in the race and to be able to understand exactly what candidates believe and preach.

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Have you seen the changes around the Hill lately? Many alumni have commented that they can't recognize the places they used to know. So to help out, Henry has decided to give everyone—alumni, students, benefactors—a short tour of campus.

(With some helpful hints)



I think I hear a mouse, which is weird because there are never any unwanted visitors in the _____ House.



If you're on the hill and your car needs a place to lodge, I can hook you up with the _____ garage.



Lots of students like to watch movies about frightening doom, but I get scared easily so I hide in the _____ room.



Although most of the juniors come here to stall, at least they're spending time in their new _____ hall.



Whenever I try to dunk I always fall short, but that doesn't matter because this is a _____ court.



If you're like me and get mesmerized by candy jars like this, stay away from the _____ Office.