

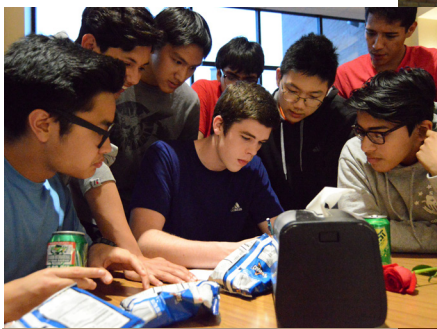
HILLTOPICS

Volume 51

Issue 6

May 2016

Student Publication since 1965



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Talent Show

In the middle of April, St. Lawrence Seminary hosted its annual talent show. This year with 18 entries, there was a great variety of talent on display. From entries like the renowned junior class skit to the new jazz combo, the St. Lawrence community proved it is filled with untapped talent. Many students expressed that they had not even realized the myriad talents of other students. Senior Dala Igoudala said, "Last year, I didn't even know that sophomore Kevin Nguyen was so good at singing. The talent show is great for students, especially underclassmen, to showcase their talents that other students may not know about."

There is also an incentive for students to join the talent show. This year, like every year, there was a panel of judges who rated the acts and ranked them accordingly. Then the top three acts received prizes, including a gift certificate worth \$20 in the canteen for first place.

Freshman Michael Slood eagerly anticipated the talent show and said, "I couldn't wait to see the jazz combo." The SLS talent show was an entertaining opportunity for the students to show off their many talents and the student body to get to see a new side of one another.

By: Eric Howard



Putting Faith into Action: 2016 Mission Trip

Junior year is an action-packed year filled with not only a great amount of hard work, but also a lot of fun. One of the most memorable events that juniors can participate in is a mission trip to southern Texas where they work hard to help the local poor and are immersed in the lives of immigrant populations who live near the border. This year's trip will begin on Friday, May 27th, and the team is composed of juniors Timothy Nyguyen, Alexander Pizana, Devin Do, Matthew Mattes, John Zampino, Martin Vu, Logan Burge, Stephen Netter, Billy Donohue, John Lopez, and Lawton Stier. They will also be accompanied and assisted by staff members Br. Mark Romanowski, Mr. Antonio Trinidad, and Mr. Mathias Hoffmann. Work is the main focus of the trip, but the group also spends some time seeing tourist attractions and having fun. For example, they will visit the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle for Mass on Sunday, as well as spend the day at Padre Island on the Gulf of Mexico. They will also enjoy attempting to cook their own supper, as different groups of students become responsible for each night's meal.

The rest of the week will be composed of various service projects to help those in need. For example, they will work with Proyecto Azteca for half of the week, and might also help organize a vacation bible school for children. The variety of tasks that the group performs develops them into strong men of faith. The mission trip gives each member of the group an opportunity to be strong Catholic men by putting their faith into action at the start of their summer vacation. After the great and meaningful work of the mission team, all of the members will return to their respective homes on June 4th as changed men who will hopefully pursue other opportunities to minister to God's people.

By: Andrew Wolfe



The brand new mission trip team is ready to do some ministry.



The *colonias* of southern Texas often have extremely poor living conditions, but the juniors help to improve some of the homes of these *colonias* through Proyecto Azteca. A typical *colonia* home is shown to the left. One that has been built by Proyecto Azteca and assisted by a previous mission trip team is shown to the right.

Alumni Assemble

When students survive their time at St. Lawrence, they hope to go on to live comfortable lives after the next stage in their education. Occasionally, some lose track of their roots and fall out of contact with their fellow alums. For this reason, the Alumni Association was formed to bring alumni from all generations together for a common cause, to encourage their continued contact with the school and to support the school in whatever ways they are able. All graduates become a member upon receiving their diplomas. The Director of Admissions, Recruitment, and Alumni Relations for St. Lawrence, Mr. Francisco Saucedo ('02), expressed how the Alumni Association “really encourages recent graduates, especially those graduating from college, to be a part of the board as we need young minds to help connect with our recent graduates.”

The Alumni Association plans annual class reunions and helps fundraise for the interests of the seminary. The Alumni Association Board meets formally and in-person three times during the year, but they tend to use email as their main method of communication at other times. During the Hilltopper Cross Country Invitational Meet each fall, the Alumni Association plans an annual alumni reunion. The association is also behind the 3-on-3 Alumni Basketball Tournament. Alumni are also welcomed each year to watch the school play, this year Career Angel, in the spring and enjoy some hors d'oeuvres. Through these events and others, the association encourages alumni to recall their Calvary spirit, reminisce about their adventures on the Hill, and work towards supporting the continued mission of the school.

By: Adolfo Mora



Joseph Mortell (2016), Rick Mortell (1945), and Mike Mortell (1984) will soon all share membership in the Alumni Association.

What can you win in the Alumni arcade?

The Brindisi Award is awarded to alumni who “have integrated the mission and values of St. Lawrence Seminary into their lives.”* The award is given to those who truly model their lives based on their formation at St. Lawrence which is based in the Gospels.

*from stlawrence.edu

The Bonaventure Frey Young Alumnus Award is awarded to alumni who have only been graduates for 15 years or less. It is inspired by the pioneering spirit that Bonaventure Frey showed in his deep faith through traveling to the United States and founding St. Lawrence Seminary.



Shepherding His Sheep

This year St. Lawrence students experienced something unique on the Hill. Two Brothers from the Capuchin Province, Br. Tien Dinh and Br. Tom Nguyen, who are both alumni of SLS, were ordained priests. Students and many staff members joined the two on April 30th and helped welcome them into the priesthood. One student, junior John Zampino, who has been to several ordinations, explained, “I would like to see what St. Lawrence does for music and presentation and what will happen at the Mass in comparison to others that I have seen.” When asked about the process of becoming a priest, religion teacher Mr. William Mattes said, “It takes about five years to become a priest; Four years to get your master degree in divinity and a year of the deaconate.”

Fr. Zoy Garibay, the Campus Minister and Senior Dorm Prefect who helped to prepare the students for what to expect at the ordination ceremony, said, “After the deaconate, the candidate would go to his superiors to be interviewed and assessed on whether he is ready or if he should stay as a deaconate for another year.” After the Mass the congregation continued the celebration with the two new Fathers in the refectory. The students on the Hill look forward to seeing these two Brothers, now Fathers, who some students know personally (current sophomore Kevin Nguyen is a brother of Father Tom Nguyen) and who others have interacted with many times, take up the mantle of priesthood. Congratulations, Fr. Tien Dinh and Fr. Tom Nguyen!

By: Matthew Mattes

Plentiful Accomplishments

By: Fr. John Holly

Just about the end of the year...the years go faster for me each year!

This year (as any year) was filled with many accomplishments. Just think of how many issues of *Hilltopics* were put together this year. The editors and Mrs. Daane can tell you how much work is involved in each issue.

The Laurentian, the annual yearbook, is a HUGE investment of time to produce. Mr. Krieg, the editors, the writers, photographers and so many others spend long hours working so that we have a record of the year—one we can hold in our hands!

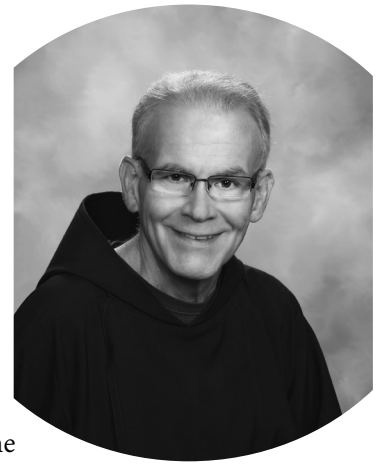
Our math team, solo/ensemble musicians, our sports teams and forensics team work throughout the year to develop their skills both individually and as a team competing against other schools. Their hard work is evident in the amount of trophies, etc., for this year alone.

Our actors, stage hands, lighting directors, and more put their talents to use in this year's play production of *Career Angel*. Their talents were on display on the auditorium stage just a short time ago, and all of their hard work was so very evident.

What have you accomplished this year yourself? What have you learned in classes, in dorm or in co-curriculars? Hours and hours of your time have been spent in working on school work—countless assignments have been turned in throughout the year.

Your fraternity has demanded a lot of your time these past months. How have YOU enriched your fraternity? How has your fraternity changed you? Freshmen: has your senior been helpful to you? What will you carry from your experiences with your senior that you'll remember to do or remember *not* to do when you take over that role for a new freshman?

You are different than you were when you walked in here last August. If nothing else, you are taller or heavier or skinnier; your hair style may have changed. More importantly, you have grown in many ways and that's GOOD! Keep it up over the summer so you have much to bring back to SLS!



Publication Wars

Although editing the yearbook is quite different than editing *Hilltopics*, both jobs are always worthwhile when the final product arrives. Unfortunately, what is never seen in the final product is the amount of fun that the editors have in the Publications' Office. If you've ever walked by the office at night, you might notice that it looks more like a playground than an office space. There's always laughing, teasing, and, of course, bickering. Naturally, our favorite topic to discuss is which publication is better. In the name of good fun, which side are you on?

Hilltopics just isn't as popular as the yearbook. That's why the yearbook is published at the very end of the year; it's the grand finale of publications. Furthermore, when's the last time you saw a signing party for *Hilltopics*? Did we mention that yearbook also has its own pizza party at the end of the year?

Hilltopics is cute, but not on the same importance level of the yearbook. This is mostly because of those lazy editors who aren't fed a constant stream of candy like we are. This is why they keep long hours into the night, procrastinating, eventually working on their "publication" when they run out of better things to do...which is a nearly endless list.

Oftentimes yearbook editors are jeered at for seeming dependent on the endless jokes and candies of Mr. Jeff Krieg. Anyway, who wouldn't want to spend two hours after school getting free candy from a guy who tells great jokes? Obviously a *Hilltopics* editor wouldn't be smart enough to take this option. Instead, those guys have to work with Mrs. Katie Daane, whose mudcake desserts are almost as bad as their publication.

Also, the newspaper's size is insignificant compared to the 128 pages that yearbook publishes year after year. While they might think that yearbook editors are unoriginal and follow the same pattern of designs, little do they know that we start working on the yearbook three months before the school year even begins.

-Joseph Min and John O'Neill

Being an editor for *Hilltopics* is way better than editing the yearbook for many reasons. First of all, *Hilltopics* is a student publication. This means that the editors work independently, creating their own ideas and working directly with the staff to meet deadlines. The yearbook editors, on the other hand, are not capable of thinking outside the cookie cutter. Perhaps their advisor, Mr. Jeff Krieg is to blame. This leads us to our next point.

Remember how the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus, tried to appease the peoples with "bread and circus"? The yearbook's leader, Mr. Krieg, is the same way with his candy and jokes.

Furthermore, the yearbook editors aren't disciplined enough to show up to work every day. That's why you hear Mr. Krieg paging, "Joseph Min and John O'Neill, please contact 7321," every day after school. Or perhaps they just can't remember that there is work to be done on a daily basis. That wouldn't surprise us. And how often does our beloved advisor, Mrs. Katie Daane, page us? Only every once in awhile, to congratulate us on meeting our deadline early. Also, those guys are kidding themselves if they think they're exempt from Mr. Krieg's roasts.

And their boastful claim that the yearbook publishes many more pages than *Hilltopics* is misleading. More pages doesn't mean a better product. Just ask Joseph Min, whose Spring Supplement from last year is still waiting in his mailbox, yet to be opened.

-Kevin Dang and Andrew Wolfe





Not a Job for Everyone

The lights dimmed and the curtains swung open. The spotlights began to illuminate the scene on stage. It was Thursday, May 5th, and the entire student body was gathered in the auditorium for the dress rehearsal of this year's production at SLS. As the students and members of the faculty watched the play in its final form, little did many realize the amount of work that was completed by the cast, stage crew, auditorium work crew, director Mrs. Margie Buelow and assistant director Mr. Antonio Trinidad.

The process of staging a production started a few months earlier, in the beginning of March, when Mrs. Buelow announced the piece that would be performed this year. More often than not, St. Lawrence performed famous plays and musicals, such as *Oliver!*, which was performed last year. However, this year's play was a much more obscure comedy. *Career Angel*, a story about a Brother at an orphanage run by an order of Catholic Brothers and his guardian angel, seemed eerily fitting for St. Lawrence. As the orphanage struggles financially, Brother Seraphim begins to see his guardian angel, with whom he has adventures and misadventures to save the orphanage.

In the middle of March, prospective actors gathered in the Fr. Louis Conference Room—due to the limited space in the auditorium, which was used by the band for rehearsals—and auditioned by acting out selected lines from the play to the best of their abilities. Mrs. Buelow watched the gamut of students as they demonstrated their capabilities as actors. After a few days, the official cast list was announced, and, to everyone's surprise, all those who had tried out were given a part in the play.

Five days a week for the next few months, the cast met every night after school to rehearse, often sacrificing their evening study halls. Of course, this sacrifice was one that every actor was willing to make. Senior John O'Neill described how he felt acting as Brother Gregory, the rector of the orphanage. "It was a very demanding part," he said, "but I felt that my personality was very similar to what was called for in the script, so I had a very enjoyable time playing his part." Indeed, though preparing for the play was a time-consuming endeavor, many participating students learned valuable lessons about theater and stage production. As *Career Angel* came to life at St. Lawrence Seminary, Mrs. Buelow, who expressed her hopes for the students to "learn to appreciate the stage and share the joy of acting," was proud of what they had accomplished.

By: Joseph Min

hey, I just wanted to say...

*It's not easy putting names to unseen faces across campus.
But saying "thank you" never ends with a question mark.*

Mrs. Amy Pasineau: We give thanks for those who explain the ins-and-outs of tuition. Mrs. Pasineau takes care of the tuition plans that are granted to families who might need financial aid. She also acts as Mr. Kevin Buelow's assistant. As such, she posts the weekly positive incident reports that students so eagerly gather around on their way to lunch on Fridays. Thank you, Mrs. Pasineau.

Br. Jerry Campbell: We give thanks for retired hands that still feel the urge to serve. Br. Jerry is a friar who represents the Capuchin spirit of the school, but he also helps out the school in his own special way. He worked for many years in the maintenance department, ensuring that everything across campus was running properly. He is an electrician and has completed much electrical work for the school. Even though he is retired, Br. Jerry can often still be found putting his skills to use and helping out. Thank you, Br. Jerry.

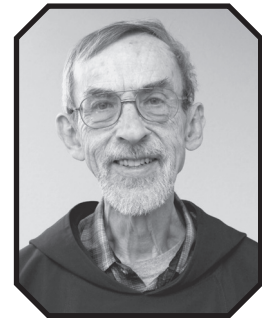
Mr. Tim Schroeder: We give thanks for those who are good with numbers and with people. As a major part of SLS finance and human relations, Mr. Schroeder organizes and administers the yearly budgets of the school to make sure not a single need goes unfulfilled. He also manages the entire staff as the head of Human Resources, ensuring that all positions are filled, and he works closely with the other administrators in the daily management of the school. Thank you, Mr. Schroeder.

Mr. Tom Wehner: We give thanks for those who understand the process of construction. Mr. Wehner plays a major role in the maintenance department as the Director of Facilities and head of the maintenance office. He supervises the maintenance staff that keeps our school's environment clean, healthy, and nourishing. Along with that, over the last several years he has worked closely managing the construction contractors throughout the many remodeling and rebuilding projects. Thank you, Mr. Wehner.

Fr. Oliver Bambenek: We give thanks for those who make libraries and information easier to navigate. If there is one person who would happily help a student find a book or fix a computer, it is Fr. Oliver. As the librarian of the Hill, Fr. Oliver, along with Mrs. Barbara Truchon, does a great job of searching out the latest and greatest books and keeping them in order within the library. He also serves as a spiritual director for students. Thank you, Fr. Oliver.

Mr. Francisco Saucedo: We give thanks for those who spread brown-and-gold pride into future generations. It can be demanding to make a small hill in the little town of Mt. Calvary known to the world, but Mr. Saucedo has played a major role in making SLS home to students from all over the world. He takes care of advertising the school and managing admissions so that all young men wishing to deepen their spiritual lives and prepare for college may find the school of their dreams. Thank you, Mr. Saucedo.

Mr. John Riss: We give thanks for hearty smiles that reflect the love of for benefactors. Mr. Riss is in charge of the Development Office, which entails many duties such as fundraising for the school and responding to donors. He, along with Fr. John Holly, arrange for the proper communication to benefactors. Thank you, Mr. Riss.



**Pictures follow descriptions in clockwise order*

By: Bryant Nguyen

We are all on a journey towards heaven. When life becomes a slippery slope of burdens, fears and trials, prayer is the only way to keep going.

- Hilopico For Fr. Dennis Druggan
- Ben Cruz: For the mentally disabled.
- Lawton Stier: For those without shelter.
- Aaron Ocon: For the sick and imprisoned.
- Danny Conlin: For our peers who need healing.
- Marcos Huerta: For all of the souls in purgatory.
- Nene Lor: For my aunt who died recently.
- Suemeng Lor: For our families back home.
- Alexis Rojas: For my grandmother who has cancer.
- Matthew Tran: For the victims of terrorist attacks.
- Karl Bloker: For all those in military service.
- Nathan Ocon: For Fr. Campion Baer, that he rests in eternal peace.
- Andrew Nguyen: For the track team, that they run fast, throw far and stay safe.
- Franklawrence Amaihe: For the millions of refugees around the world who need shelter.
- Zeb Boos: For teachers, staff, and parents who use their abilities to help others achieve theirs.
- Stephen Netter: For people around the world affected by natural disasters, that they find the strength and support to rebuild.
- Jose Sierra: For all those discerning their vocation, that God's voice speaks loud and clear to hearts willing to serve.
- Lewis Bensett: For the recently departed father and mother of Mrs. Sandy Knaus, that they abide in heavenly bliss and smile upon Mrs. Knaus's earthly ministry.

Seung Joo Lee: For the victims of human trafficking whose bodies and souls have been tortured by the devil's hands, that God's loving light illuminates a path forward.

An Dang: For the father of Mr. John Ahlstrom, that his soul rests peacefully and his ears still hear the melodies of his son's vocation.

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Intercessions compiled by: Mike Perez and Joseph Hable

When I watch the news, I wonder if God is watching
 My the same thing
 prayer life should be better
 Sometimes I take my blessings for granted
 I blame others easily but struggle with admitting my faults
 I don't want anyone to know that I don't have enough money
 I don't have anyone to talk to that I trust
 Sometimes I ignore my guardian angel because the devil is easier to listen to
 The urge to cheat was too much
 Am I the only one who thinks abortion is murder?
 Why can't I treat others the way I want to be treated?
 Pornography is everywhere
 My pride gets the best of me

Facebook says religion is outdated
 I feel lonely so often
 I have a hard time forgiving people
 Time flies by faster than I want it to
 I'm scared of being judged by my sins
 I'm going to miss this school so much
 I miss Fr. Campion so much
 Why isn't there a cure for cancer?
 Peer pressure makes me do things I regret
 Sometimes I feel like I'm the only one who is not having fun
 I don't want to fail my parents
 I didn't mean to hurt his feelings
 I think of my mom and my sisters
 I'm scared of going through
 I had no idea what he was
 I have a hard time staying focused in chapel
 I'm scared to speak up because they might bully me
 I wonder how my parents are doing
 I'm scared to speak up because they might bully me
 I have a hard time staying focused in chapel
 I'm scared to speak up because they might bully me

When the sun shines, so do our spring athletes. Whether they are serving, batting, or sprinting, the Hilltoppers are making the most of this cold spring season.

Tennis By: Gary Kim
Track By: Kamsi Nwanebo
Baseball By: Austin Stevens



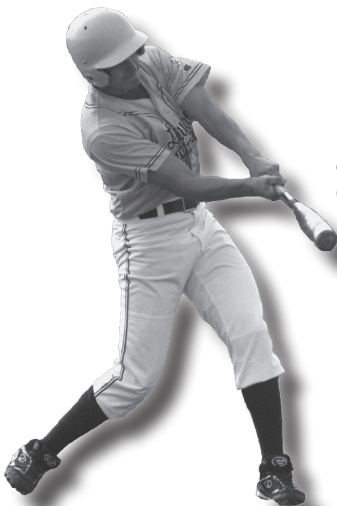
Tennis is one of the most competitive and challenging sports at SLS.

A single game can take two hours to finish, testing even the strongest of athletes. The SLS tennis team is a relatively new team to the Hill, and they start their season late compared to the other spring sports teams. However, it is a team that has typically done very well from year-to-year. While the success of the team is owed to the dedication of the athletes, it is also due to the two dedicated coaches. Coach Dennis Holm, who has coached the team for the seven years from its inception, and Coach Larry Mueller, who has coached the team for four years, work tirelessly for the success of the team. Timothy Le, a senior player who was on the varsity team last year, said, "I learned so much from Mr. Holm. He showed us how to play tennis."

This season is off to a fantastic start for the Hilltoppers, both individually and as a team. With six wins and only one loss, junior Princeton La is the the team's top player. Richard Van, a junior who played tennis over the past three years, commented, "As a varsity player, I found tennis was fun yet very hard. I also found that I either 'Go hard or go Holm.'"

A lot more effort went into the preparation for the baseball season than most people realized. Because the first game of the season approached very rapidly after SLS's spring break, the JV and varsity players had to prepare equally fast. Players needed to get back into good physical shape after time between seasons. Training then included exercises like running the bases, practicing situational scenarios, batting practice, and other team-building activities. Thanks to the village of Mt. Calvary, SLS was able to use their beautiful baseball diamond below the Hill to host all home games, which was provided in exchange for SLS letting the village's basketball team borrow the school's gym during the cold winter months. This year, as in many past, Mr. Chuck Lefeber and Mr. Chad Dowland coached the varsity team, while Mr. Noel Sippel and Mr. A.J. Kraus coached the JV team. The fruits of the varsit labors came against Faith Christian. The junior varsity also ran some bases, beating St. Anthony and Poynette.

Regardless of the persisting snow at the start of the season, the members of the track team knew it was time to start correcting false starts and learn how to hand off a baton. With its various relays, distance runs, and field events, track members were never left at a standstill. The track team was comprised of three groups: sprinters, distance runners, and throwers. Coached by Dr. Rick Voell, Mr. Kevin Buelow, and Mr. Phil McCabe, respectively, each group spent a majority of their time focusing on their particular event. Despite the cold start to the season, the team succeeded at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, placing 1st. At the Omro and Random Lake invites, the team placed 2nd.



A CALVARY WORLD



Dhruv Alphonso

Seton Hall University, New Jersey
Franklawrence Amaihe
 St. Ambrose University, Iowa
Zebadiah Boos
 University of Great Falls, Montana
Arnulfo Cortes
 DePaul University, Illinois
Arturo Cortes
 Harold Washington University, Illinois
Benjamin Cruz
 Marquette University, Wisconsin
Kevin Dang
 Loyola University Chicago, Illinois
Tristan De Leon
 University of Evansville, Indiana
Ricardo Diaz
 University of Illinois-Chicago
John-Andy Garza Jr.
 Illinois Institute of Technology

Robert Gleeson

University of North Dakota
Isaias Godinez
 Lewis University, Illinois
Andrew Gumieny
 Marian University, Wisconsin
Kevin Hallinan
 Marian University, Wisconsin
Dala Iguodala
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Chang-Hun Kam
 Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School, Australia
Sang Jun Ko
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Illinois
Timothy Le
 Virginia Tech
Jae Beom Lee
 St. Louis College of Pharmacy, Missouri
Ashiq Legi
 University of Houston-Downtown, Texas

Richard Lor

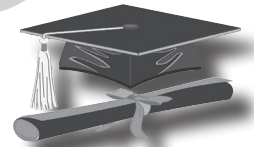
Marquette University, Wisconsin
Joseph Min
 California Institute of Technology (Caltech)
Jungho Moon
 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Joseph Mortell
 Marian University, Wisconsin
Josué Mota
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Jonathan Nguyen
 University of Houston-Downtown, Texas
Lap Phi Nguyen
 University of Alabama-Birmingham
Michael Trieu Nguyen
 Wilmington University, Delaware
Phong Nguyen
 Montgomery College, Maryland

Kamsi Nwanebo

University of Notre Dame, Indiana
Aaron Ocon
 Harold Washington University, Illinois
John O'Neil
 University of Notre Dame, Indiana
Marcial Perez
 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Brian Pham
 Orange Coast College, California
Thomas Pham
 Louisiana State University
Jacob Prado
 Marquette University, Wisconsin
Fidel Ramirez
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Francisco Regalado
 Valparaiso University, Indiana

Raul Reyes

Morton College, Illinois
Erick Rico-Sánchez
 Marquette University, Wisconsin
Hector Luis Rivera III
 DePaul University, Illinois
Ramon Rocha
 Marquette University, Wisconsin
Austin Stevens
 Murray State University, Kentucky
Donovan Stier
 University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc
Diego Vargas
 Marquette University, Wisconsin
Andrew Wolfe
 Marian University, Indiana



As the Class of 2016 began their final year in August, there was one thing in the back of their minds that they really did not want to happen: the college application process. This tiring, stressful process was quite possibly the hardest and most rewarding component of the seniors' last year. This is what determines a graduate's life after the Hill, and that really weighed heavily on many minds. Throughout the process of college considerations, the most important person to talk to at St. Lawrence was Mrs. Jane Le-feber, the guidance counselor. She worked countless hours with seniors trying to find the best possible universities and scholar-

ship opportunities. When trying to determine what colleges to apply to, several different factors were considered: the offered majors, the location, the financial aid, and such. After choosing several college possibilities, the application process began. This required hours of filling out forms and typing essays. Colleges collected a myriad of information on each applicant: grade point average, extra-curricular involvement, community service, work history, leadership abilities, and the list continues. In the end, though, the effort in compiling this information was worth it. This final stretch of high school was a stressful time

for seniors as they awaited to hear decisions from colleges that would shape their immediate future. The only consolation for all the hard work and time was the acceptance letter from the college that finally came in the spring. This was the payment for the effort and it prepared seniors for the rest of their lives. At St. Lawrence, all students are incredibly lucky to be in a college-prep environment with college help and advice and before we leave, we want to thank all those who have helped us succeed. We hope to make you proud!

By: Zeb Boos
 Colleges Compiled By: Isaias Godinez

This volume of Hilltopics has highlighted the various relationships that staff members share. Some of those relationships were obvious. Some were less known: Who knew that a Biology teacher and a Religion teacher would be close friends? In a year when buildings are rising left and right, take some time to appreciate the friendships and bonds that form the foundation and facade of this brown and gold community.

Mr. Holm: I thought it would be me until my frequent visits to the new St. Joe's Hall. Now, I am not sure. However, it has been heard through the grapevine that Dr. Voell will be here to teach his grandsons and that will be well beyond my years... even with an elevator.

Dr. Voell: What? Are you calling me old? There is going to be a whole new burst of energy, enlightenment, wisdom and relationship with "Biology" when he takes residence in the new penthouse science lab. He's going to be like the Energizer Bunny and keep going and going.

Will the tennis team ever be more successful than the track team?
 V: No. But if we could get those tennis guys working out now and again that might help their chances.

Will the track team ever be as successful as the tennis team?
 H: So, are you aiming to be one of those post-game reporters who asks leading questions to spark controversy in the hope of increasing your readership? I would say that the tennis team would love for them to make a run at us, but I believe it would end in a track team fault.

What's more fun to teach: Biology or Phy. Ed?
 H: Seeing students in both settings is a fun experience, but as the years go by my body is telling me that classroom activity is more appealing.



For those who don't know, can you explain exactly what "ruah" is and why it is your everyday motto?
 V: Many years of life experience have lead to this phrase becoming my default axiom. Why? Simply, it is all about ruah! Ruah is an ancient Hebrew word that means three things: God's breath, God's Spirit, wind of God. The Hebrews believed that when the wind blew it was the breath of Yahweh moving through and animating all of creation. When we breathe in, we are breathing in God's Spirit. When we breathe out, we are breathing God's Spirit—mixed with ours—out to others. Ruah Baby!

What made you want to become a teacher? Why Religion and Psychology?
 V: I've always been fascinated with how the mind and spirit work both independently and together.



You're well known on campus for advising the racquetball intramurals and for playing a good game yourself. What would be your analysis of a game of racquetball between you and Mr. Holm?
 V: The first order of business would be getting all the necessary medical supplies that Mr. Holm might need from Mrs. McFarland—you know, bandages, ibuprofen, crutches, wheelchair (only in an emergency), ice packs and the like. Second step: getting Mr. Holm onto the court. You know steps are becoming more of a challenge for the man as he approaches retirement. Once we had the supplies, we could begin our match. What a match it would be.

What made you want to become a teacher? Why Biology and Phy. Ed?
 H: I have no big, inspirational story. I attended college with an undecided major. During my sophomore year, I had to make a decision on my major. I enjoyed biology and art in high school, so I thought why not give those two a try. Biology and art classes were hard to coordinate, so what goes best with biology..... physical education of course.

You're known for being unbeatable in tennis and badminton. Who would win between the two of you in a game of racquetball?
 H: I really think this whole interview is a set-up by Dr. Voell. Racquetball along with golf are the only two athletic activities that in which has a slight edge. We both know that. Hypothetically, if we were to play, my game plan would be to start out with some trash talk (maybe some Republican rhetoric), which may or may not work because of his hearing, and then I would break into the Highland Fling between returns to dazzle him with my footwork. His stubbornness (or I mean perseverance) would most likely win out.

When did your relationship with Dr. Voell begin and how has it progressed along the years?
 H: Our whole relationship is built on relationships. After years of working with Dr. Voell on mission trips, local ministry experiences, woodworking projects, and personal building projects, we have grown to know each other well. Our relationship has progressed from colleagues to friends—a friend that you joke with and a friend that you turn to for strength and comfort when times are tough. He is religion.



When did your relationship with Mr. Holm begin, and how has it progressed along the years?
 V: I started teaching at SLS in 2000, the year my son Matt was a junior. I think Mr. Holm started in the previous century. Through the years, I've grown accustomed to his face, his humor, his sense of detail, his deep faith, love of family and willingness to build RELATIONSHIP with people. I believe our friendship has deepened and has been a grace-filled relationship for me.

What exactly do you guys talk about at lunch?
 V: The round table—ah, yes, the round table. We discuss many world-changing events. There have been times when we have created an agenda for our lunch time conversations which have touched on world affairs, SLS affairs, sports, how savory the soup is, why there isn't more color on Mr. Chuck Lefebber's lunch plate, biology, religion, research methods, elections, Fond du Lac and St. Peter current events, woodworking, retirement plans, who would win at racquetball, and so on and so forth.

What exactly do you guys talk about at lunch?
 H: You name it and we discuss it. Current events, sports, politics, economics, climate change, educational strategies, and students are just some of the topics that are discussed at the round table.

KEEPING THE FAITH

Oftentimes, adults who seek to provide advice or counsel about the future harp about “life in the real world.” Here at St. Lawrence, it can be quite hard to experience just what the “real world” is. No, I’m not referring to Mr. Holm’s infamous “Real World Reading Links,” but rather the place where 45 of my brothers and I will reside following graduation in May. It can be somewhat unsettling to imagine a world off the Hill, our home for much of the year. The whole theme of this column, for the past school year, has been to help prepare you, the readers, for your time after St. Lawrence, in college or at home.

Look at the name “Saint Lawrence Seminary.” Our school’s moniker means so much more than simply an all-boys boarding school, our beloved “SLS,” or even a residential community. The first word that comes to mind for most people when they hear “seminary” is a place where priests are educated. While it is quite obvious, judging by the seniors’ college choices, that not all of us will become priests or brothers, every student who calls SLS his alma mater is expected to become a leader for the Church in the world. However, in a world that can be militant against Catholicism, Christianity, and religion in general, it is quite hard to practice a faith that is often called archaic, outdated, or unnecessary in mainstream media. That is why we, as students of St. Lawrence, must learn how to keep our Catholic faith and identity alive, over summer break, in college, and beyond.

To be frank, being a practicing Catholic in our modern society is a struggle. We are bombarded constantly by news stories, opinions, and Facebook posts that paint religion in a

clearly negative light. These viewpoints, shared by a substantial number of people, make it very difficult to keep and hold Catholic faith and morals. But it is a faith worth fighting for and morals worth upholding.

For example, one of the most important issues in the political world, since it is election season, is the debate over abortion. The Catholic Church holds that murdering an innocent child in its mother’s womb is clearly sinful and must be avoided. However, roughly half of all political candidates say that a mother must have the choice to kill her child if she so desires. From a Catholic and Christian standpoint, this is completely wrong. However, standing up for a baby’s right to live can bombard the defender with malicious statements, hate, and being labeled a “misogynist.” Now, this is where decision-making comes in: will you defend the morals and teachings of your Catholic upbringing? Or will you cave to worldly opinions and compromise your beliefs?

Let us not be afraid to be silent outside and inside ourselves, so that we are able not only to perceive God’s voice, but also the voice of the person next to us.

-Pope Benedict XVI

As a program of the Capuchin Franciscans, St. Lawrence Seminary intends to instill morals and values within each and every student. Part of being in this seminary program is to understand and uphold those Capuchin val-

ues: care for the poor, service to others, and spreading the Gospel. Society will conflict with these beliefs, but with proper moral care and understanding, it is completely possible, and necessary, to live out these ideals.

Being completely honest, I find it very difficult at times to feel the desire and need to wake up early on a Sunday and attend Mass, at school, but especially over summer break. While during breaks from the high school year, parents can persuade their children to attend weekly services, at most university campuses, Mass is not compulsory and, sometimes, is not even offered as a campus event. In order to combat college students’ falling-away from the Catholic faith, Newman Centers have been established all over America at secular colleges and universities. These Catholic clubs or organizations, named after Cardinal John Newman, offer a place where Catholic students can hang out, work on homework, socialize and, most importantly, attend Mass. Oftentimes, these centers will hold Masses on Sunday evenings, typically around 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. Such organizations have helped millions of Catholic youths retain their faith during college and off into the working world.

God says that He will never give us a cross too heavy to bear. We also know that, through Christ, we are called to love tenderly, act with justice, and walk with God. Though “real life” and the “real world” will be overbearing at times and may threaten to compromise faith and morals, it is crucial that we, as Catholics, as students, and as brothers in Christ, hold our faith steady in the world and act as examples of love, service, and Jesus on Earth.

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Ever since the back-to-school-days of September, Henry's tours has been a mainstay of *Hilltopics*' 51st edition. As the year comes to close, Henry would like to showcase just one more spot. Do you recognize this room?

Oftentimes, I felt as if my co-editor was actually a mentally unstable teenager. Furthermore, he would constantly listen to a variety of gargbage rappers (especially Chance the Rapper) and forced me to listen to them. I felt truly tortured and trapped in a prison of emotion and terrible music. He would even come to my bed during the night in a zombie walk, chanting, "*Hilltopics*."

All kidding aside, after all the work and pages we've done together, I've come to appreciate all the creativity and love that Kevin put into making these six issues of *Hilltopics* with me. *Hilltopics* is a student production that does not make itself. I was honestly scared when I was first chosen because I'm not the most creative guy on campus, and I knew that being a co-editor would require an abundance of creativity from either myself or Kevin. Luckily, Kevin took charge. It still took a great amount of work from both Kevin and myself, but it was always worth it when we receive the great pleasure of seeing another issue put into print. When we learned that we were the co-editors for this year's *Hilltopics*, we made a deal that Kevin would always come up with the ideas and I would be his slave that put them into effect. We stuck to this plan much of the time, but I've also had a great opportunity to increase my own creativity throughout the year. I am also grateful for the great amount of guidance that Mrs. Daane has given us, and I look forward to seeing next year's co-editors' continued improvement of *Hilltopics*. -Andrew Wolfe

It was not until this moment that I realized Andrew Wolfe was actually a co-editor. I just assumed I was the editor-in-chief because I did all of the work. Also, whenever Andrew was in the Publication's Office, I thought he was just one of those kids who stopped by because he had nothing better to do. Just kidding!



Perhaps the hardest part of publishing six issues of *Hilltopics* is the brainstorming process. Each blank page could go in a million different directions and deciding where we want to go requires so much time behind the scenes. Throughout all of that time, Andrew and I encountered several obstacles (procrastinating, arguing, forgetting to save, etc.) But we survived each difficulty, right Andrew? Personally, the biggest struggle I've had to overcome this year is the last

thing I ever wanted to do: saying goodbye. Thank you, Andrew, for working and putting up with me with a constant smile. I'm not sure if anyone else could've worked with me as tirelessly as you did. And although you sang way too much in the office, I'm going to miss our *Les Mis* duets that nobody except the two of us would want to hear. Thank you, Mrs. Daane, for spoiling us with the chance to work for and with you. We weren't *that* bad, right? Thank you, everyone, for reading *Hilltopics*. I hope you understood our creativity and enjoyed this brown and gold publication. It came from the work of grateful hands. -Kevin Dang