

TOPICS

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

THE



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4N6(Forensics) Domination!
By: Zeb Boos

This season's forensics team, coached by Mr. Antonio Trinidad, saw unparalleled success compared to recent seasons in regard to team wins and individual student performances. Recently, the forensics team traveled to Brookfield East and proceeded to win 1st place in the large team category. Almost half of the SLS team powered, and several placed in their respective categories, including juniors Kevin Dang and Jonathan Nguyen with 1st place, junior Zeb Boos with 2nd place, and senior Kevin Draftz with 3rd place. One such success story was senior Anthony Coompson, who powered for the first time. He said, "It was amazing to be up there and receive the award. This has been a great season, which I am thankful for."

Up next was the Wisconsin Forensics Coaches Association State Tournament, which was held on Saturday, April 11th, at Ripon College. Only seven entries attended as it was the end of SLS's spring break. Results for those entries were very strong though: sophomore John Zampino won 5th place in radio speaking, junior Diego Vargas took 4th place in poetry, and senior Edem Tagbor won 3rd place in prose. The group of juniors, Zeb Boos, Arturo Cortes, Arnulfo Cortes, Ramon Rocha, and Benjamin Cruz, came home State Champions in group interpretation!

On Friday and Saturday, April 17th and 18th, the team traveled to UW-Madison for the Wisconsin High School Forensics Association State Festival. At this meet the team saw more success as 22 entries earned a bronze, silver, or gold medal. The forensics team has much to be proud of from their very successful season. T



The WFCFA State Champions in group interpretation pose with their coach Mr. Trinidad.

Striking a Major Chord
By: Joseph Min

On February 28th, the hard work of so many of St. Lawrence Seminary's musicians was reflected at the end of a long, yet exciting, day at the District Solo and Ensemble competition. The next morning, Rector Fr. John Holly announced, "19 students qualified for the State competition in 21 events."



Junior Andrew Wolfe performs his piano solo "Nocturne in E minor."

These students then continued their musical journey on to the State Solo and Ensemble competition, which was held on Saturday, April 25th, at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. In order to prepare for the contest, the students spent the two intervening months practicing their pieces, either with Mr. John Ahlstrom, the band and choir director, or independently, and fine-tuning the spots that the prior judges listed as needing more work. Junior John O'Neill, who was part of the African drum quartet said, "We practiced once a week with Mr. Anthony Van Asten, playing the piece over and over again to make it perfect."

Unfortunately, the destruction of St. Joseph Hall last spring, and consequently the loss of its band and practice rooms, had been an imposition for the musicians, as they scrambled to find space to practice their pieces in the weeks leading up to the competition. Senior Kevin Draftz described this experience as "interesting...and somewhat inconvenient. I had never realized how useful the practice rooms were. I just took them for granted before the fire. Now, we practice in any place we can find: the chapel, the choir room, and the auditorium and its lobby." However, such apparent disadvantages did not stop them from doing their best.

The musicians came home quite successful, as they earned 13 first-place rankings and 8 second-place rankings. Three students, Andrew Wolfe, Joseph Min, and Danny Matthew, also earned a nomination for outstanding soloist for the day. Mr. Ahlstrom said after, "All in all, [it was] a good day." Congratulations to all the participants! T

The Road Ahead

By: Ronnie Nguyen

The road ahead looks bright for the Class of 2015! Here are the schools, the seniors plan to attend next year:

David Avalos – University of Illinois–Chicago
 Mark Berryman – Belmont Abbey College
 Hubert Bradley – Indiana University
 Jang-Won Leo Cho – Penn State University
 Anthony Coomson – University of British Columbia
 Daniel DeBord – University of Wisconsin–Madison
 Joseph Donohue – St. Norbert College
 Kevin Draftz – University of Nebraska–Lincoln
 Matthew Enright – College of DuPage
 Cristian Estrada – University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
 Austin Gabrielsen – Marian University
 Eduardo Galvan II – Marian University
 Joshua Gerads – Marian University
 Carlos Gomez, Jr. – Loyola University Chicago
 Francesco Ho – University of Dallas
 Kent Hong – University of California–Irvine
 Beom Kim – University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign
 Si-hyeon Kim – McGill University, Montréal
 Michael Ko – Cooper Union
 Miguel Limon – University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
 Charles Luke – Franciscan University of Steubenville
 Nathan Martens – University of Dallas
 Daniel Matthew – Northern Michigan University

Juan Diego Mayorga-Herrera–University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
 Connor McCabe – South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
 Tyler McFadzen – University of Wisconsin–La Crosse
 Anthony Mensah – American University
 Maximilian Michaels – DePaul University
 Jesus Moctezuma – Marian University
 Emerson Moder – Bemidji State University
 Andrew Nguyen – Milwaukee School of Engineering
 Ronnie Nguyen – Creighton University
 Humberto Ochoa, Jr. – University of Illinois–Urbana–Champaign
 Kenneth Ohene-Adu, Jr. – Georgia State University
 Christian Osornio – Michigan State University
 Samuel Pham – Louisiana State University
 Rodrigo Ramirez – Marquette University
 John Noel Santiago – Texas State Technical College
 Alexis Serrato – St. Xavier University
 Derrike Suckow – University of Wisconsin–Stout
 Edem Tagbor – University at Buffalo
 Christian Tango-an – Milwaukee School of Engineering
 Brian Tran – DePaul University
 Johnny Vang – University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
 Luis Veloz – University of Wisconsin–Madison

Was gibt neues? What's New?

By: Edem Tagbor

Each spring at St. Lawrence Seminary brings an opportunity for cultural engagement with German students. In alternating years, students in German classes have the opportunity to travel to a sister school in Germany or the opportunity to host students from that school at SLS. The student exchange program between SLS and the Collegium Johanneum (also known as die Loburg) began in 1989 during the tenure of Fr. Joe Diermeier. The aim of this program was to allow participating students to experience a different culture and become better English or German speakers. This year 14 German students and two chaperones, the principal of the school and an English teacher, came to visit the Hill of Happiness. They arrived on Saturday, March 28th, and joined the SLS community for the annual talent show that night. They began their 16-day visit by attending classes on the Hill. They also went on a tour of the Green Bay Packers Stadium, Lambeau Field, visited Cabela's, a hunting store, and shopped at the Fox River Mall.

Each German student, however, spent a majority of the visit at the home of an SLS student during the Easter break. The expectation was that they would learn more about and experience the American culture in the homes of their hosts. Senior Andrew Nguyen, who is currently taking German 4, hosted three exchange students. "I visited Germany last year," Andrew said, "and honestly, I didn't see many skyscrapers, so I took my guest out and he found the skyscrapers in Chicago pretty cool." He added that the exchange program is a great experience for students because they get to see the differences in the educational systems of both countries.

Jacob Prado, a junior, also hosted a German student during the break. According to him, hosting a German was a good experience because he was able to see how his guest "reacted to our culture." Jacob felt that hosting a German student was quite different from hosting a fellow Son of Calvary.

On Monday, April 13th, the day after the Easter break ended, the German students returned to Germany. The ties between SLS and die Loburg continue to grow stronger as both schools are looking at an exchange visit that would last a whole academic year. Learning a new language can sometimes be tough, especially when one is learning without the benefit of hearing native speakers. An exchange program such as this, eases the difficulty a student may encounter in learning and allows him or her to also appreciate the culture of the participating countries. T



German exchange students, and their SLS hosts, pose for a photo at Lambeau Field.

“Excuse me sir, can I have some more?” ..”More!?”

By: Christian Osornio



This year’s musical performance at SLS was the well-known musical *Oliver!*, which tells the story of a young, orphan boy named Oliver, who lives in poverty and encounters many people, like thieves, killers, and the police, throughout his young life. The setting is London, England, where everyone in this time period had Cockney accents. Along the way, Oliver meets another boy named Dodger (also often called the Artful Dodger), who shows Oliver the ways of an adolescent pickpocket and how to live life

to the fullest. As Oliver learns more about himself throughout the play, he also learns a lot about other people. From the sly Fagin to the corrupt Bill Sykes, Oliver constantly has challenges thrown at him. All of which ultimately bring him to a man who ends up being his wealthy grandfather.



Mr. Craig Hostetler, the junior dorm supervisor, and Mrs. Margie Buelow, SLS’s Liturgical Minister, co-directed the musical. The cast for the musical was arranged after the students came back from Christmas break. The tryouts began on February 9th. Choosing the cast was difficult work for the directors due to so many talented students vying for spots in the cast. Senior Joshua Gerads played the lead role of Oliver and senior Austin Gabrielsen played his best friend, the Artful Dodger. Some of the most difficult parts of the musical came up during the early parts of its production: from choreography to the scene creation to the accents. Austin Gabrielsen stated, “I felt that the hardest part for me was keeping the traditional Cockney accent the whole way through the play. My British accent was pretty good already, but since Cockney is like the lower class version, it was tougher to keep up.” Joshua

Gerads said, “This took a lot of work but was definitely worth it in the end. It was a lot of fun working with everyone. The singing was a little hard, but once I got the hang of it, I felt I was pretty good.”

The antagonists of the musical were played by senior Kevin Draftz as Mr. Bumble, the overseer of the orphanage who kicks Oliver out, senior Anthony Mensah as Fagin, the miserly leader of the pickpockets, and sophomore John Zampino, who played Bill Sykes, Fagin’s associate and a burglar. This year’s cast and crew had more participants than it has had in the recent past. Participants included the stage crew and



anyone who helped create the sets, along with the dancers and pit band that also helped bring *Oliver!* to life for the audience. The pit band, students from SLS’s band directed by Mr. John Ahlstrom, lent their musical talents to the show. Beom Kim was a senior trombone player in the pit band. “The music was really challenging to read, especially in the dark,” he said jokingly, “but I really liked the style and being one of the select players to get to perform.” The performances ran from May 1st-3rd, and the audience replied with long applause at each performance. Senior, Joseph Donohue said, “Phenomenal! I really enjoyed being a part of it.” T

The Rector's View

By: Fr. John Holly

GROWTH HAPPENS

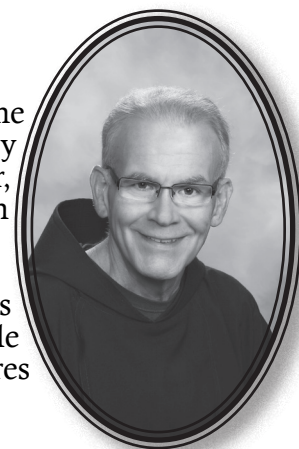
As we come to the end of the school year it is obvious to see that much growth has gone on this year. For students, perhaps it's physical growth, pants are tighter or shorter than they used to be. Perhaps you can see growth in being able to identify things you learned this year, like new concepts in Advanced Algebra or the ability to carry on a conversation totally in German! Maybe you've learned to play tennis or even to ride a bike.

As the faculty and staff stand back and observe, we see many signs of growth: personalities develop, guys become more comfortable in talking to adults and even to other students. People have become more helpful to others, more aware that we all have time, talents, and treasures to share with this community.

Parents report that many of you are different; you've grown up over these months! Some will say you are more pleasant when you go home; you get along better with your siblings. Many of you are more comfortable making decisions; many are more comfortable praying on your own; silence and being alone with Jesus are no longer scary times for you. You've moved into different friendships, you've met new people, you've probably surprised yourself by the friendships you've formed this year. Hopefully, trying new things has been a good experience for you.

Yes, indeed, GROWTH HAPPENS! Much growth has gone on this year! When I stand by and observe, when I watch you file past the faculty table at Max's to get your meals, I see fantastic things in you and these wonderful things go beyond the fact that you grew taller!

I give thanks to our God for the growth of this past year, I look forward to the wonderful things God will do with you during this summer...you will bring back much to enrich another year of life on the Hill for all of us! T



Passing It Down

By: Christian Tango-an



Physical changes are happening at SLS; new buildings are being erected, while older ones are being renovated. Just like these buildings are changing, students find that they have changed. They find that they are not the same person they came as and they will go with memories that they would not have found anywhere else; but before that happens, they must make the best out of the remainder of this school year.

And what a busy time of year it is. As I write this, sporting events are taking place, the school production of *Oliver!* and Field Day are approaching rather quickly. As we enter the conclusion of this school year, it is easier to recognize that it has been a year of emotion. The end of the year brings perseverance and joy for the seniors with approaching graduation, and impatience and excitement for the juniors as they look to take on the role of seniors. This year likely brought fun and relaxation for many of the sophomores as they spent their time in the new St. Anthony Hall dormitory, and for the freshmen, it was a year of amazement and new experiences. This year was filled with remarkable events and opportunities for the students, which *Hilltopics*, the yearbook and even *Inklings*, the newly founded SLS literary magazine, captured as the year progressed.

Being one of the co-editors of the 2014-2015 *Hilltopics* has been an exciting experience, and I think my co-editor Charles Luke would agree. After many hours in front of this computer, we have memorized all the shortcuts in Adobe InDesign and the right settings in Adobe Photoshop. Just as last year's editors sat down with us to try to prepare us for the immense task of editing *Hilltopics*, we, too, are passing down our knowledge. After six successful issues, the time has come once again to pass on what we have learned for the 2015-2016 co-editors: Kevin Dang and Andrew Wolfe. And as they look towards their new roles, they are excited and ready to take over. Changes are happening everywhere on the Hill, buildings are changing, students are graduating, and there is only one way to look: forward. Look ahead to what the future holds for you. T

Have You Chosen Your Name Yet?

By: Isaias Godinez

Confirmation in the Catholic Church is a day to commemorate, a day when one receives the complete grace begun in him through his baptism, to continue living his faith and deepening his relationship with God. At St. Lawrence Seminary, juniors who have not yet been confirmed attend confirmation preparation classes, under the direction of Mrs. Margie Buelow, every other Sunday. These classes are meant to help students understand the importance of the sacrament and to open them to the calling of God in their lives. One key component of the class is to listen to witness talks, the stories of different people who have heard different calls and are living them out in the Catholic faith. Confirmation is a choice each person makes to continue the baptismal promises that his parents made for him. The difference is that each person now decides for himself to continue practicing those promises and strengthening them to become disciples of God.



Archbishop Listecki congratulates newly-confirmed junior Jae Lee.

At SLS, confirmation took place on Sunday, April 26th, and it was held at Holy Cross Parish in Mt. Calvary, which is located at the bottom of the Hill. The location was changed because of the small size available in the school's chapel, with a portion of it occupied by the band displaced from the auditorium for the musical production. At the ceremony, which was presided over by Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listecki, 27 juniors received the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Each, accompanied by a sponsor of his choosing, approached the front, spoke with Archbishop Listecki, declared his new name, and was blessed with the sacred chrism oil. Junior Ricardo Diaz had always been excited for the day he got confirmed. He said, "I feel closer to God because of all the optional Masses that I attended and the ministry I completed, like Broken Bread." The Catholic Church now has a few more voices to bring the Christian message to the world. T

A Triduum Triumph

By: John O'Neill

The Easter Season is one which most Calvary students greatly anticipate. Besides the all-too-needed Easter break, the start of April marks the beginning of baseball, track and field, and tennis. But before any of these happen, students, staff, and friars need to celebrate the Paschal Mystery. On the Hill, these celebrations take a variety of forms.

On Palm Sunday, the German students, who had arrived the day before, were welcomed with a Mass where the congregation began in the auditorium and then processed to the beating of drums (and the rain) to the Chapel where the rest of Mass took place. On Holy Thursday, a unique experience occurred, as it does every year. Some students, along with volunteers from Cap Corps who are on campus for a Triduum retreat, got their feet washed during a reenactment of Jesus' Last Supper. The feast culminated with a procession to St. Conrad Hall in the auditorium lobby where a chapel was set up for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. With Good Friday came a much needed break, but before the students left campus, they listened to a presentation given by Br. Vito Martinez on the topic of spirituality and the internet. Next, the Good Friday service moved to the chapel where the entire community remembered the death of Jesus Christ. Four students helped Fr. John proclaim the passion, and then all venerated the cross. Soon afterward, the busses were boarded and the Hilltoppers got to enjoy their breaks.



The Palm Sunday procession takes place in the rain.

Celebrations did not end there, however, for students continued the Triduum at their home parishes. Peter Pham, a freshman, went to Saint Henry Catholic Church on the north side of Chicago on Easter Sunday. He said that the Mass was "in Vietnamese and English...but I enjoyed it." Junior Tristan De Leon explained, "The vibe was different from the Christmas season or Advent; it was exciting and fantastic!" Joe Donohue, a senior, added, "We [my family] went to 10:30 a.m. Mass. Afterwards, we got together with our extended family at their house, watched sports, and then went out to dinner." Certainly, students of the Hill greatly enjoyed the Easter season. Be it the joy of Jesus' rising or the break it brings, SLS loves the Resurrection of Christ. T

Hard Work and Enjoyment: 2015 Mission Trip

By: Andrew Wolfe

Every year juniors at St. Lawrence are given a powerful ministry opportunity at the end of the school year. This year seven students, as well as five staff members, are preparing to depart on May 23rd to southern Texas, along the Mexico border, to help the poor and needy in the city of McAllen, as well as to spend a fraction of the time enjoying tourist attractions and to relax. This year the juniors attending are Jacob Prado, John Andy Garza, Josue Mota, Andrew Wolfe, Jonathan Nguyen, and Dhruv Alphonso. Jacob is looking forward to seeing the conditions near the Mexico border, while Jonathan says, "The hardest thing to prepare for is going to be using Spanish." He is still looking forward to a challenge and the opportunity to test his Spanish speaking skills. The staff members that will join, as well as assist them, are Br. Mark Romanowski, Mr. William Mattes, Mr. Antonio Trinidad, Mr. Mathias Hoffman, and Mr. Evan Kinney.

Upon arriving at McAllen, Texas, the group plans to settle in on Saturday, attend Sunday Mass, and then the work begins the Monday in McAllen and continues through the week. They will help clean up the yard of an elderly couple on the first day, work with Proyecto Azteca, a non-profit organization working to provide housing to low income families in Texas, and to help do work for others in the city in the following days. They may also help to organize a Vacation Bible School for children at the end of the week. Following the work, the group is planning to see the border wall as well as tour some of the area in their free time, but the main focus is to bring Christ to others through meaningful ministry. The mission trip will conclude with the students and staff returning to their respective homes after a week of bonding and enjoyment, but also hard work. T



A group of seven juniors are excited for their upcoming mission trip to Texas.

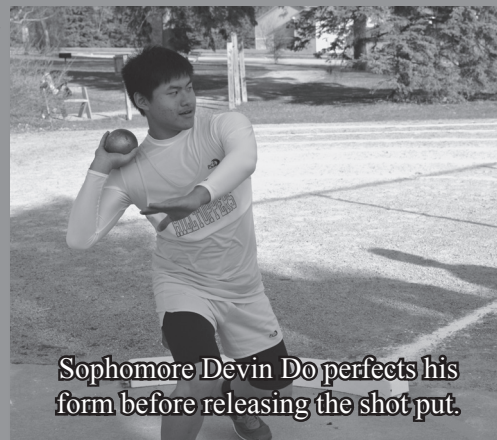
Goals in Sight

By: Anthony Coompson

Spring is a wonderful time of the year, where athletes are eager to compete and show others the fruits of their hard labor. One way that students do just that is through participation on the track team. Track and field is a sport like no other. With a myriad of events, there is bound to be at least one event that suits almost any individual. Not only do most track-letes (track-athletes) find their events challenging, they also find them fun. When asked about how he feels about his 100m and 200m events, junior Franklawrence Amaihe stated that he looks forward to them at every meet, with a goal in mind to try and beat his times from previous meets. Track and field is not only for veteran athletes but also for newcomers who are looking to push themselves into doing more and getting more out of their hard work. When asked how he feels about track, freshman Sebastian Camarena-Barba said, "It was a lot harder for me in the beginning, but it got better when I began to see that everyone was cheering for me. The whole team helped each other out."

The first track meet was held on Thursday, April 23rd, at Kettle Moraine Lutheran. Individuals on the team did well, placing in the top three for several events. For varsity, Kris Osornio took 3rd in the 100m, Kamsi Nwanebo took 2nd in the 200m, Wilson Burge took 2nd in the 400m, and Derrike Suckow took 1st in the 300m hurdles. And the 4x100 relay team of Franklawrence Amaihe, Kamsi Nwanebo, Humberto Ochoa, and Kris Osornio took 2nd. The JV team did well that day also, including Jacob Prado who took 2nd in the 400m and Edem Tagbor who took 1st in the 100m. The 4x100 relay team of Daniel Sanchez, Nathan Pineda, Jose Mercado, and Martin Vu took 1st, as did the 4x400 team of Yann Memiaghe, Timothy Nguyen, Eddie Mills, and Jacob Prado.

On Saturday, April 25th, the team competed at the St. John's Northwestern Military Academy Invitational. The team took home 4th place with several strong performances. Kamsi Nwanebo took 2nd place in the 100m and 200m. Derrike Suckow took 1st in both the 110m high hurdles and the 300m low hurdles, and Timothy Nguyen took 3rd in the 300m low hurdles. The 4x400m relay team of Franklawrence Amaihe, Kevin Dang, Humberto Ochoa, and Wilson Burge took 2nd place. Jose Mercado took 1st in the shotput, while Nathan Martens took 2nd in the triple jump. Track is a sport in which many people find a place they can push themselves to aspire for more, as all of these track-letes did throughout their seasons. T



Sophomore Devin Do perfects his form before releasing the shot put.

Ace!!!

By: Taehyeon (Gary) Kim



Sophomore Princeton La warms up for a match.

As the winter season passed, the snow melted and the green grass appeared on the ground. The disappearance of the snow signaled the end of the basketball and wrestling seasons. When spring came, it was time for some of the students to grab their racquets and play tennis. Tennis, like wrestling, is very competitive sport for many individuals. A player has to challenge himself mentally and physically while competing. The duration of one tennis match can be very long, and it requires great physical endurance and technique. Even though it can be tiring, it is enjoyed by many people, especially those students who made the tennis team this year.

Many new faces appeared on this year's tennis team. The team consisted of eight freshmen and six new sophomores and juniors, many of whom had not played tennis before this season. Although there were many newcomers, ten veteran players, including five who were on varsity last year, returned to the team. With this mixture of fresh and veteran players, the future of the tennis team looked very interesting.

They team played their first scrimmage in Sheboygan Falls on Monday, April 13th. The scrimmage was a good way for players to get on the court and face some competition. They went on to play Howards Grove on Monday, April 16th. The team score was 1-6 with Howards Grove winning. Sophomore Princeton La was the only varsity player to win his match.

As the season continued, the team saw continued success with only a few losses. Winning highlights included the varsity team's wins over Green Bay Preble and Milwaukee Lutheran at the Beaver Dam Tournament, as well as a win over Fox Valley Lutheran at the dual hosted by FVL. The Pewaukee JV Tournament saw success for the JV team too, as they bested Pewaukee and Waukesha North Team 2. Congratulations to the tennis players on all of their effort! T

A Tough Start

By: Tyler McFadzen

SLS. For many students, the warming weather simply signaled the beginning of their favorite sport season. The potential players endured tryouts before Easter break and upon their return, the teams met some tough competition. The varsity's first game was held on Thursday, April 16th, against Living Word Lutheran, where SLS fell 1-4. The JV team's opener was Friday, April 17th, as they faced St. Mary's Springs Academy, and they, too, fell 7-14.

Saturday, April 18th, saw both the JV and varsity baseball teams heading off the Hill to continue their seasons. The varsity team went to Waupun to play Wayland Academy, and the JV team traveled to Genesee to play against the Waukesha Home School Association. The varsity game started with senior pitcher Emerson Moder pitching three scoreless innings as the SLS sluggers put seven runs on the board. Then during the fourth, Wayland answered with five runs of their own. Coach Chuck Lefeber and Coach Chad Dowland decided to put sophomore pitcher Mitchell Yeakley in until the last inning when senior pitcher Mark Berryman finished the game. During the game Wayland managed to put up another eight runs, defeating SLS by one run, 13-12. "We started off with intensity, but we just didn't finish," said Yeakley about the game. Notable achievements in the game, though, included senior Josh Gerads stealing five bases and junior Josue Mota hitting his second double of the season. With this loss, it set varsity's record at 0-2.

JV dealt with tough opposition on the same day, with a double-header against the Waukesha Home School Association. SLS started with a 1-0 lead in the first of two games. "And after that, everything started to crash on defense," said freshman player Todd Huynh. The home schoolers started to steal bases and put runs up on the board, threatening sophomore Isai Luevano, who was on the mound. "We need to work on our fielding and not making so many errors," said sophomore Paul Jeon after recalling the game. The final score of the match stood at 15-6 in the home schooler's favor. The second game of the day did not go any better for the JV team, it ended with a score of 10-0. A notable achiever in the game was sophomore Julian Morón, who had three hits that day. The current JV record is 0-3. As the season continues, both teams will work hard as they hope to put a few games in the win column. T



Senior Emerson Moder waits for a pitch.



Sophomore Mitchell Yeakley makes solid contact with a pitch.

“Sugar? Yes, Please!”

By: Kevin Dang

After 18 years of instructing students in the auditorium, Mrs. Margie Buelow knows exactly what good stage presence looks like. And on March the 28th, when the stage was cleared and seats were filled, she saw plenty of it: “This year’s talent show was the best we’ve had in a while,” she proudly proclaimed.

The annual talent show at St. Lawrence Seminary is one of the premier venues for students to showcase their artistic abilities on campus. From singing to dancing to spoken word poetry and even stand-up comedy, the seminarians indeed have a lot to share with the community. The most popular act of the night was singing, and there were several highlights in this category. For solo performances, sophomore John Zampino’s rendition of “A Team” by Ed Sheeran tied with freshman Kevin Nguyen’s version of “Life of the Party” by Shawn Mendes for first place. In the duet/group category for singing, the senior quartet of Kent Hong, Brian Tran, Jesus Moctezuma and Christian Tango-an won over the judges’ hearts with their performance of “Sugar” by Maroon 5. In the miscellaneous category, which entailed everything other than singing, there was another tie for first place: The “oohs and aahs” from the audience when they saw the yo-yo wielding group of juniors John Andy Garza and Francisco Regalado were just as memorable as the thick laughter that accompanied senior John Santiago’s stand-up comedy on what Filipinos are scared of. Each act was introduced by emcees Juan Diego Mayorga-Herrera and Sam Pham, both seniors, who also contributed to the humorous senior videos that were displayed in between performances.

This year’s hour-and-one-half talent show was packed with solid performances all around. After tons of clapping and even a couple standing ovations, the curtain closed for the last time. When the auditorium was cleared and the lights were turned off, the talk of the night was all about how entertaining the show had been, a strong indicator that Mrs. Buelow wasn’t the only one impressed with this year’s talent show. T



The African Drum Quartet performs “Spirits Rising.”



Seniors Sam Pham and Juan-Diego Mayorga, emcee the talent show.

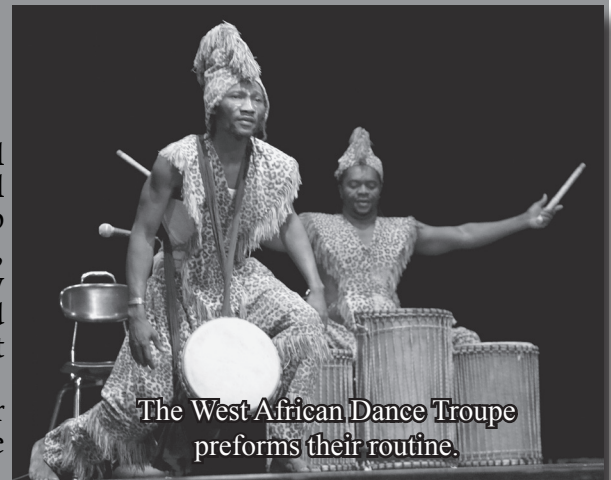
A Cultural Surprise

By: Austin Stevens

On Wednesday, April 1st, students from the Consolidated Parochial Elementary School, or CPES, visited the Hill to see a special performance by a West African Dance Troupe from Senegal, a group of trained drummers, dancers, folklore-tellers, acrobats, and historians, knowledgeable in traditional African music, customs and dance. They are a highly acclaimed group, who perform for many schools around the U.S. The group is only composed of three performers; but most students agreed they put on a spectacular show!

The demonstration took place in the auditorium, and it was clear that the audience was captivated because all eyes were glued to the stage and performers. The performers made the show very interactive, encouraging everybody in the audience to help by clapping along with their beats. Students enjoyed the lead dancer’s ability to leap through the air with ease and listened attentively as another performer talked passionately about the history of his family’s instrument. Everyone left with some new knowledge of African traditions. The lead dancer was very well built and muscularly defined. Zebadiah Boos, a junior, in good jest, said, “That guy was BIG... I’ve found a new inspiration!” Towards the end of the performance, the group invited both teachers and students to dance alongside them. Also in good humor, Mr. William Mattes said, “I was disappointed that I didn’t get to see Mr. Van Asten go up there, but I was very surprised to see Mrs. Auch [who’s currently pregnant] rise to the occasion and take up the challenge!”

After the performance, the elementary students were hosted by the freshman class, who led them down the hill for lunch and conversation at Maximilian’s. Freshman Fernando Flores, who hosted one of the youngest students from CPES, related how excited the child was about the show and how big her eyes were during the performance. Overall, it was an exciting and enlightening show for CPES and SLS students alike. T



The West African Dance Troupe performs their routine.

Faculty and Staff

SPOTLIGHT

By: Kamsi Nwanebo

MR. LOU WAPPEL

Q. In addition to being an English teacher, what other positions have you held at schools where you worked?

A. I've always taught some sort of English class, but I also taught speech, computers, choir, humanities, and other classes. I've been involved in coaching sports, advising yearbook staffs, directing the school play, driving the school bus, cooking for the students on the weekends, recruitment, etc. As far as positions, I've been a dorm supervisor, dean of students, principal, and a mentor and advisor for students.

Q. What answers would you give in response to the rumors that your classes are very difficult?

A. Occasionally, at the end of a course, a student will tell me that the course was challenging. I always ask, "Did you learn anything?" And invariably the student will smile and say, "Oh, yeah!" I figure that's all that needs to be said.

Q. Out of all the novels you assign for students to read, which did you or do you enjoy reading the most?

A. I think I enjoy re-reading Umberto Eco's The Name of the Rose most. It is so well-written, and, after all, the main character (the "good guy") is a Franciscan who isn't young anymore, who really loves books. Add to that the fact that it's set in medieval Italy, and what's not to like?

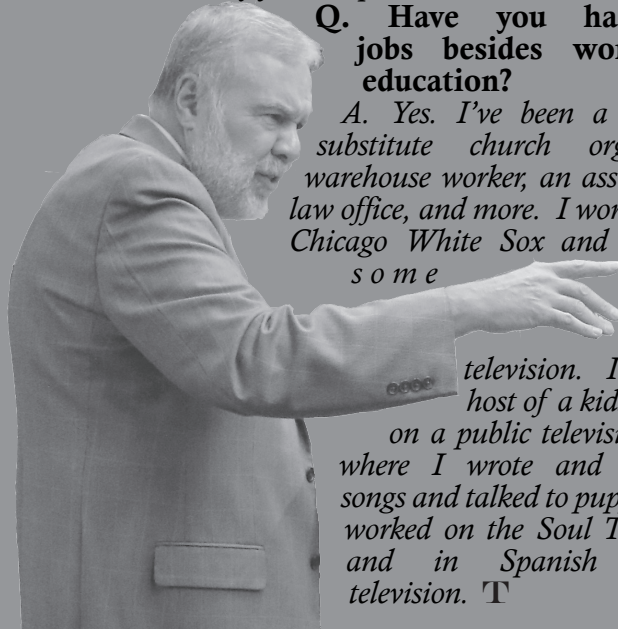
Q. About how many countries have you traveled to and which one did you enjoy visiting the most?

A. Around 23 or so. My most memorable trip is when I spent five weeks living in Assisi, Italy, studying the life of St. Francis. Assisi is my favorite place in the world.

Q. Have you had other jobs besides working in education?

A. Yes. I've been a farmer, a substitute church organist, a warehouse worker, an assistant in a law office, and more. I worked for the Chicago White Sox and I also did some work in radio and

television. I was the host of a kids' program on a public television station where I wrote and performed songs and talked to puppets. I also worked on the Soul Train show and in Spanish language television. T



MRS. DEANN SIPPEL

Q. How did you come to hear about or become associated with Saint Lawrence?

A. I was in between jobs and a friend of my husband and sister-in-law, Mr. Doug Olig, informed me of an opening on the Hill. So, I sent in my resume, was called for an interview, and was hired in the Development Office in September of 2001. In 2008, Mrs. Sandra Mertens retired from the Admissions Office, and I moved into my current position in Admissions.

Q. For those who are unaware, what can you tell us about the work you conduct and the contributions you make to Saint Lawrence every day?

A. I wear many hats here at SLS, but first and foremost I assist the Admissions Director and Admissions Coordinators recruit domestic and international students to the school. I also assist Mr. Bartel on the academic side of things when needed, mostly with schedules and progress reports. I supervise first hour study hall and assist when and wherever needed.

Q. Besides yourself, are any of your family members closely associated with the school?

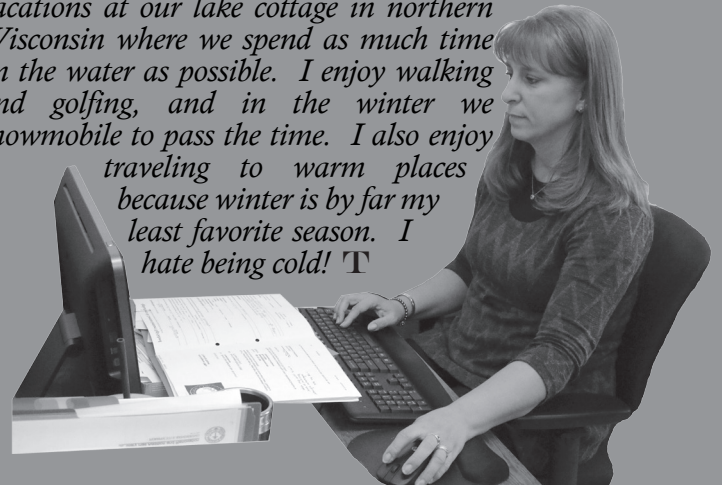
A. My sister, Mrs. Cathy Kujawski, works in the Development Office and my niece has worked on the summer cleaning crew.

Q. What is something you look forward to doing each school day?

A. Quite honestly, I love my job and enjoy coming to work every day! So choosing just one thing is hard, but I enjoy Registration Day because meeting all the new families reinforces all the work that has been done to get them here, and I love greeting all the returning students as well.

Q. What is your favorite pastime outside of school?

A. When I am not at school, I enjoy spending time with my husband, family, and friends. I enjoy spending weekends and vacations at our lake cottage in northern Wisconsin where we spend as much time on the water as possible. I enjoy walking and golfing, and in the winter we snowmobile to pass the time. I also enjoy traveling to warm places because winter is by far my least favorite season. I hate being cold! T



Student

SPOTLIGHT

By: Adolfo Mora

WILSON BURGE

Q. What class are you in?

A. I'm a freshman.

Q. Where are you from?

A. I'm from New Berlin, Wisconsin, just north of Milwaukee.

Q. Have any of your relatives attended SLS?

A. My dad is an alumnus of SLS, Class of 1985, and my brother is currently a sophomore.

Q: Have you ever felt homesick?

A: No I don't need my parents; I can survive in the wilderness on my own. Love you, Mom and Dad.

Q. What sports do you play?

A. I was on the cross country, basketball and track teams.

Q: What is your favorite sport that you don't play competitively?

A: I'd have to say soccer.

Q. What do you like most about SLS?

A. The unity between staff and students stands out for me, and it's also good to be able to see my brother every day.

Q. What are some of your hobbies?

A. I play League of Legends on occasion.

Q. Do you have any role models?

A. I look up to my upperclassman Zebadiah Boos and my senior Jang-Won Cho, who are true SLS super students.

Q. How do you like your freshman year so far?

A. I enjoy the challenge some classes bring to the table.

Q: How do you feel about almost finishing freshman year?

A: In the beginning it was hard; there are some scars but I'm ready for sophomore year.

Q: What is your favorite spot on campus to hang out with friends?

A: I've had some pretty deep conversations in the laundry room.

Q. How is living in a new dorm?

A. There is plenty of space; the half courts are fun and so is the WiFi.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: Probably in college pursuing a career that I'm not yet sure about. T



DAVID AVALOS

Q. What class are you in?

A. I'm currently a senior.

Q. Where are you from?

A. I'm from Chicago, Illinois.

Q. How did you find out about SLS?

A. Some of my family came here and I also came on a weekend visit.

Q: Have you ever felt homesick?

A: A couple of times, about once a month, even maybe once a week.

Q. What sports do you partake in?

A. I'm a manager for tennis.

Q. What are some of your hobbies?

A. I enjoy listening to music and, in my free time, mixing music.

Q. What do you like most about SLS?

A. I like the responsibility I gained after coming to SLS.

Q: What is your favorite spot on campus to hang out with friends?

A: The canteen because of the 25 cent ice cream cones. #IloveIceCream

Q. How is it living in St. Francis Hall?

A. It's calm; I'm a dorm dweller so I know how things run.

Q: What has been your favorite moment at SLS?

A: I'd say being in the Canteen Crew and playing soccer with my boy Charlie (Carlos Gomez).

Q. Your nickname is "Panda." Where did that come from?

A. I was Panda before coming to SLS and brought it over here. For the past four years, I've identified myself as Panda.

Q: Will you continue to be referred to as "Panda" after SLS?

A: I prefer [to be] done with it.

Q. Are you looking forward to graduation?

A. I'm looking forward to graduating from this school.

Q. Do you know what college you're going to?

A. I will be attending the University of Illinois at Chicago. T



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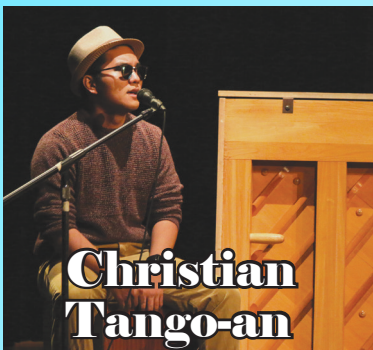


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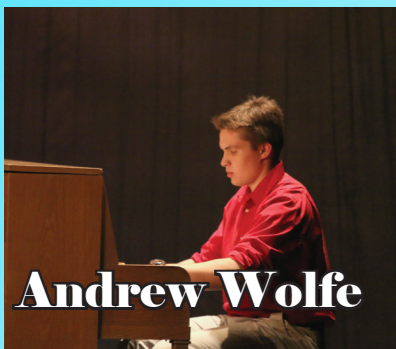
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