

## Eye through the storm

By: Tanner Adomaitis, Staff Writer



Saint Scholastica Hall suffered damage to its roof during a storm.  
(SOURCE: ADOMAITIS)

With the winter months comes winter storms bringing threatening clouds, high winds, pelting rain, slick ice, and fluffy snow, leading to downed trees and damaged buildings. On Jan. 9, 2024, a campus-wide email was sent out by Joshua Guiser, Vice President for Finance and Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, alerting the Saint Vincent College (SVC) Community to the temporary closure of Saint (St.) Scholastica Hall due to damages from a storm system. Terrence Hill, Assistant Director of Facilities, Capital Management, and Planning updated that temporary repairs have been made for the hall to reopen, but there is still further work to be done.

“We are working to make a permanent fix in the totality of replacing the roof,” Hill said. “However, we will need to wait for more fa-

vorable conditions to do so.”

In addition to repairing St. Scholastica, the Facilities Management Office (FMO) has been investigating various roofing systems, doors, windows, and trees around campus for damage and weakness from the recent storms. On Dec. 25, 2023, there was a Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) line eruption from the extreme temperatures in St. Benedict Hall that required immediate action and the reconfiguration of an entire pod so students could return to campus uninterrupted.

FMO has a solution to every problem brought by storms and temperature changes and is well prepared to stay ahead of potential damage.

*Continued on page 2*

## Together we rise, beginning fall 2024

By: Lauren Campbell, Staff Writer

Did you know that Rooney Hall, which houses generations of promising Saint Vincent College (SVC) students, was once an emergency landing site for pilots?

In 1919, after a big storm hit the area, army pilots were forced to make an emergency landing at what is now Rooney Hall at SVC. The Benedictine monks took the pilots in for the night while the storm cleared. After the pilots had left, SVC officially became an emergency landing site, marking the birth of aviation in Western Pennsylvania.

About a decade later, the first collegiate aviation program in the world was opened right here at SVC. The college's own “Spirit of Saint Vincent” plane flew over Latrobe from the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, piloted by students working to get their degrees. Unfortunately, during the Great Depression, the program fizzled out, most likely due to air travel and plane fuel being unaffordable.

Now, almost 100 years after the original program ended, SVC is offering a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management–Professional Pilot. On Wednesday, January 17, a press conference was held at the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, where the return of the Aviation program was announced.

*Continued on page 4*



# NEWS

## Updates to storm damage and tips to stay safe

*continued from page 1*

“If you can think of a problem, we either have a solution already prepared or we employ a vast collection of trades people, janitorial technicians, and contract service providers that allow us to act quickly to anything that arises here in the community,” Hill said.

Hill also offered a few tips to prepare and keep students safe during the harsh months, such as reviewing the conditions before walking outside, watching for slippery areas, using a pair of boots with non-slip soles, using traction aids during extreme weather conditions, walking in shorter and choppier steps, wearing sunglasses to reduce glare, and reporting slippery areas that need attention via a Work Order.

“The Grounds Department is hard at work keeping walks, parking lots, and roadways clear. However, they are responsible for about 20 miles of walks, 54 acres of parking lots, and four miles of roadways,” Hill said. “The Grounds Crew often starts its day at 3 a.m. to meet the demands of the winter weather. Please be aware of these conditions and equipment that is operating in the area.”

While the unfavorable conditions brought by winter storm systems create inconveniences, FMO and the SVC Community remain prepared and do what they can to ensure safety.

3			2	8				
				3	7	2	4	
					9			
1		8				3		
		7		5	2			
	9				4		5	
		6						
7	8	2	9					
			8	1				7

## A Letter from the Editor

**By: Sean Callahan, Editor-in-Chief**

Welcome back! It seems as if Christmas and New Year were only one week ago, so that feels strange to write even now, a month later.

Despite the swiftness of the holiday break, I believe a lot has changed, or is about to change at SVC. For example, it has been two years since SVC’s campus saw as much snow as it did on the week of January 15. Additionally, each of the three schools on campus has received two to five new professors...many of whom we, the staff at the Review, hope to cover this semester in more issues!

As was previously covered, SVC administration announced that construction on the Dunlap Family Athletic and Recreation Center is set to begin in May, and that the halls of Gerard, Bonaventure, and St. Scholastica may be planned to be torn down within the next decade to build newer dorms. Furthermore, the nursing program is being restructured, the aviation program has returned to SVC, and the Sauerkraut Tower is being considered for repurposing.

And of course, the most important update of all: there is now root beer at the Caf! Hopefully, whether you are a fan of Mug or Barq root beer, we can all agree that having any sort of root beer available for consumption in the Caf is a blessing.

Regarding The Review, I would like to announce a few updates. Firstly, The Review now has a new Business Manager, Kaylin Welsh! Kaylin and I will be working together this semester to facilitate more new opportunities among the SVC community.

I would like to reiterate things that you, students, professors, and other SVC community members, can do to help contribute to The Review’s success, and also further your own experience on campus.

Firstly, The Review is more than happy to advertise entities or events of many types, including club, student, campus, or even local businesses, in exchange for payment. Please email [Kaylin.Welsh@stvincent.edu](mailto:Kaylin.Welsh@stvincent.edu) on details of the ad, specifically cost for the ad and page size, and how often you’d like to see it published. She can assist in specifics.

Secondly, if you have an opinion piece or creative writing feature you created, we would love to consider your work for submission in our latest issue. Those who submit can also receive payment from The Review per article they submit, should we accept and feature your work in the current week’s issue. Please email me, the Editor-in-Chief, [Sean.Callahan@stvincent.edu](mailto:Sean.Callahan@stvincent.edu) for further inquiry on this, or if you have a submission you would like The Review team to consider.

Finally, do not be afraid to contact myself or The Review with any praise, feedback, or constructive criticism you have regarding a particular article, issue, or the paper as a whole. Also, please inform our staff of any ideas you may have for stories to investigate and write about. I always like to say to my colleagues, no idea is a bad idea.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this. I wish you all a great spring semester.

# A new front for SVC football

By: John Syms, Part Time Staff Writer



New Offensive Coaches Sam London and Chris Corrado  
(SOURCE: athletics.stvincent.edu)

Big changes are arriving for Bearcat football in 2024. Sam London and Chris Corrado will be joining the Saint Vincent College (SVC) football coaching staff at the start of the 2024 season. London will be named the brand-new offensive coordinator, while Chris Corrado will be labeled as the new offensive line coach.

London previously coached the Waynesburg University football team for three seasons. He was assistant head coach, running back and tight end coach, and special teams coordinator for the Yellowjackets. He additionally helped the Waynesburg offense to be ranked fourth in the Presidents Athletic Conference (PAC) during the 2023 season, despite the team winning only two games. One of those victories was against SVC, where the Yellowjackets defeated the Bearcats 24-0 at the John F. Wiley Stadium.

Corrado spent six seasons as the offensive line coach at Geneva College, and in his last three seasons at Geneva, he was hired as the offensive coordinator. The Tornados had 18 victories and 37 losses in the last six years that Corrado coached. In the 2023 season, Geneva finished the year with a record of 4-6, with their largest victory being against the Bethany Bison with a score of 45-20.

Corrado believes that the SVC football team has a bright future with an upcoming recruiting class, and he is excited to join the coaching staff.

“This is a program that is up and coming and has a great leader of men at the helm in Coach [Aaron Smetanka], and I am ecstatic to be at a place where I am aligned with the coach and his vision,” Corrado said.

Despite the Bearcats losing seventeen seniors, Corrado be-

lieves that SVC could have a great group of guys playing for the offensive line next season.

“I cannot wait to see what this upcoming year holds, and I look forward to building a great position group of young men,” Corrado said. “We have so many young returning pieces who got to cut their teeth a bit last year, as well as a promising group of incoming freshman and transfers.”

Aaron Smetanka will be entering his sixth year as the coach for the Bearcats at the start of the 2024 season. In 2023, SVC ended their year with three wins and seven losses, finishing ninth in the conference. Smetanka’s overall team record is 18-27, and 17 of those victories were from conference games.

Despite having one of the worst seasons in his five-year coaching career, Smetanka likes to take the positives away from the 2023 season.

“We had some good positive things on the defensive side of the ball,” Smetanka said. “I think we truly could have had six wins based on our end last year.”

The Bearcats lost two games last year by two to three points. The head coach also noted that some injuries hurt the team’s chances of winning more games last season. However, Smetanka still praised the team’s performance.

“We have a talented team, and I felt our guys giving them opportunities to step up could give those players a lot of experience.”

Despite only having three victories in 2023, SVC managed to have six players earn All-PAC honors, and Coach Smetanka is excited to see how next year plays out.



# SVC brings back aviation degree for aspiring pilots



Dean Urick and Aviation Instructor James Arnold took a flight around campus to celebrate the new aviation major. (SOURCE: MCKENNA SCHOOL INSTAGRAM)



James Arnold and SVC administration, including Dean Urick, hold a press conference discussing the new aviation major. (SOURCE: STVIN-CENT.EDU)

The new aviation program allows students to earn an associate degree from The Community College of Beaver County (CCBC), a bachelor's degree from SVC, and a commercial pilot's license, all within four years. Students will take the required core and business classes at SVC, online aviation courses through CCBC, and then all flight training will be held at Laurel Highlands Aeronautical Academy at the Arnold Palmer International Airport.

Dr. Michael Urick, Dean of the SVC McKenna School of Business and head of the new aviation program, emphasized the importance of the business side to the newly proposed program while also highlighting the fact that students can expect to be in the air by the end of their first semester.

However, the program has been uniquely designed so that if a student later decides that flying is not for them, they still have the business core to fall back on, allowing them to graduate with a degree in Business Administration in four years and no time lost.

"If you're looking at certain industries, what industries are hurting, and where jobs are, we're talking aviation, we're talking pilots," Urick said. "[The aviation program] became

something that, more and more, I was convinced this is an avenue we needed to pursue, given our strategic location with the airport, the community's needs, and how we can best serve the community."

Urick explains that this is why the program was put together. The college feels it could generate value for the community and great learning experiences for students.

"This is very much a community-focused and community-based program," Urick said.

Enrollment for the Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management–Professional Pilot Degree begins in Fall 2024.

**Follow us  
on social  
media  
for more  
weekly  
stories!**



@SVCReview

...



The Review

...



@svcreview

# SPORTS

## Team Standings

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	15	2	W6
Chatham	15	3	L1
Westminster	10	7	L1
Allegheny	8	9	W1
Bethany	9	9	L3
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	9	9	W3
Geneva	8	10	W1
Grove City	8	10	L1
Waynesburg	4	13	L1
Franciscan	4	14	W1
Thiel	0	18	L18

SCHEDULE: @GROVE CITY 1/31 5:30 PM, @GENEVA 2/3 1 PM, BETHANY 2/7 5:30 PM

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	17	1	L1
Geneva	16	2	W8
Chatham	10	8	L2
Waynesburg	9	8	W2
Grove City	9	8	L1
Westminster	8	9	W1
Bethany	7	11	L1
Franciscan	7	10	W1
Thiel	5	13	L2
Allegheny	5	12	L6
W&J	4	13	W2

SCHEDULE: @GROVE CITY 1/31 7:30 PM, @GENEVA 2/3 3 PM, BETHANY 2/7 7:30 PM

### WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	4	2	W2
Westminster	3	3	W2
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	7	2	W4
Franciscan	8	2	W1
Allegheny	2	7	W1
W&J	2	7	L1
Chatham	1	7	L6
Bethany	1	7	L6

SCHEDULE: PAC 1/14, 1/15, 1/16, 1/17 @GROVE CITY

### MEN'S SWIMMING

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	4	2	W2
Westminster	3	3	W2
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	4	4	W3
Chatham	1	6	L5
Allegheny	1	7	W1
W&J	1	7	L6
Bethany	0	5	L5

SCHEDULE: PAC 1/14, 1/15, 1/16, 1/17 @GROVE CITY

### MEN'S WRESTLING

Team	W	L	Streak
Thiel	3	0	W3
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	3	7	W1
W&J	3	10	L2
<b>Waynesburg</b>	1	15	L3

SCHEDULE: THIEL 2/1 7 PM, FAIRMONT STATE 2/4 12 PM, GARRET COLLEGE 2/4 2 PM

\*Correct as of 1/23/24

# ARTS AND CULTURE

## Welcome, Dr. Sophia Geng!

By: Elizabeth Van Pilsum, Arts and Culture Editor



Dr. Sophia Geng is SVC's new Chair Professor of China Studies and the Director of the James and Margaret Tseng Loe Center for China Studies (SOURCE: LinkedIn)

This past August, Saint Vincent College (SVC) welcomed Dr. Sophia Geng to campus. Geng is the new Chair Professor of China Studies and the Director of the James and Margaret Tseng Loe Center for China Studies, which is a two-fold position that involves scholarly and teaching duties as well as administrative and organizational duties.

Geng received her B.A. from Shandong Teacher's University in Ji'nan, China, and she achieved her M.A. at Beijing Foreign Studies University. In 2001, she moved to America to pursue a Ph.D. in American studies, which she achieved at the University of Minnesota. Her studies largely concentrated on the diaspora across the Pacific Ocean and history and culture of the Asian American community.

Geng was always interested in being a professor. Her first teaching job was at Saint John's University in Minnesota, which is a daughter school of SVC. "I feel the transition to Saint Vincent was a vocational call," Geng said.

"SVC has a very special connection with China," Geng said. "In the 1920s, members of the Saint Vincent community established Peking Catholic University (Fu Jen University), which contributed greatly to China's modern higher education. Since then, generations of Saint Vincent people have devoted their talents and energy to better understanding between the American and Chinese people. I see my vocation at Saint Vincent a continuation of this noble effort."

Now that she is at SVC, Geng's goal is to open new horizons for students by exposing them to a different culture. This semester, Geng is teaching a class about Chinese and Chinese American folklore.

"We look at both traditional folktales, myths and legends but also talk

about their evolutions over history and their connections to our life today as a way for our students to think about their place in the 21st century world and be exposed to other ways of life," Geng said.

She explained that the class utilizes digital storytelling techniques to get connected with different American populations. She also assigns the students to interview an elder and talk about traditional American values, and to reach out to an Asian American friend or family member and talk about what it means to be an American in our time and place.

In addition to broadening students' horizons through class, Geng is hoping to introduce as many students as possible to Chinese culture through her role as Director of the Loe Center. She is planning a jewelry making event, a Chinese calligraphy workshop, and storytelling events. The event she is most focused on now is the Lunar Chinese New Year celebration planned for the end

of February. The Loe Center is organizing the event with Campus Life, the Department of Language and Cultures, and the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Geng has also invited club presidents to be involved and she is hopeful that many students will participate in the festivities.

The celebration will involve multiple different components, such as a Lunar New Year themed dinner at the community center, which is tentatively scheduled for February 16. There will also be activity tables in the Carey lounge featuring mahjong, paper cutting, paper folding, calligraphy writing, and more. Finally, there will also be a performing aspect of the celebration, possibly on February 24. Geng is inviting students, faculty, staff, and friends of the SVC community to perform in whatever art form they wish, such as singing, dancing, spoken word poetry, and poem recitation.

Geng is hopeful that her efforts to introduce Chinese culture to SVC will be impactful.

"SVC is a wonderful community that has a lot to offer," Geng said. "SVC has always had a vision that's beyond Westmoreland County and Pennsylvania, and that has contributed to our growth in the past and will lead us to a better future. International education is an essential, indispensable piece of education, and I think the Loe Center will play a positive and important role in that envisioned future."

# From Pittsburgh to Palestine

By: **Jacqueline Moon**, Contributor

Since October 7, more than 17,487 Palestinians have been murdered in Gaza alone at the hands of the Israeli government, and the death toll is still rising.

To call the situation in Palestine anything other than a genocide is a disservice to the thousands of people being targeted and murdered each day. A genocide is defined as “a crime committed with the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, in whole or part” (The Genocide Convention). It is not a conflict, it is not a war, it is almost entirely one-sided and offers no safety to innocent civilians, and it is a genocide.

The genocide of the Palestinian people is unlike anything I’ve seen in my lifetime. Growing up, I remember learning about the Native American genocide, American chattel slavery, the Holocaust, and various other atrocities senselessly inflicted upon innocent groups of people. My heart and the hearts of my classmates broke as we read these stories. We couldn’t possibly understand how people could be so evil to one another and more than that, we couldn’t understand how others could sit by and watch as these things happened. Every time we learned about a new crime against humanity, we vowed that we would the people to stop them if they ever happened in our lifetimes. We would speak out, we would fight back, we would remember to love our fellow man. Looking at the situation in Palestine today, I now realize we have willingly broken our promise.

Over the past two months, I’ve been enraged by the lack of discussion surrounding the Israeli occupation of Palestine in any of my classes and on the Saint Vincent campus in general. Aside from a few one-off conversations about it among friends, almost no one I know has talked about the genocide. To me, this lack of discussion feels dystopian and almost inhumane. I don’t know how so many people are seemingly okay with being indifferent towards this issue and most of all I am disappointed in my professors for not facilitating conversations about it in class.

By no means am I saying I have been perfect in my support for Palestine. I learned about the situation much later than I should have, I haven’t been able to attend any protests to show my support, and I don’t know as much about the history of the situation as I’d like to, but I’m ready to talk about it and that’s more than I can say about most of my educators.

All schools, but college campuses specifically, should serve as places where students and faculty alike can engage in discussions about global issues. They should encourage their students to grow beyond intellectual development in their disciplines and challenge them to become empathetic and informed citizens of the world.

The passion I have now for discussing issues regarding social justice can be almost entirely credited to my high school religion and philosophy teacher, Mr. Crossen. A proud Catholic and a man well-versed in the practice of radical empathy, Mr. Crossen always made sure his students were aware of poignant social issues. He taught his students as pupils and as people, ensuring they would walk out of his classroom feeling more connected to the world and the people around them than when they came in.

“An educator has the responsibility to prepare her students to be competent not only in academics, but also in moral decision making and for participation in a just society,” Crossen said. He continues, “One important job of any educator is to burst her student’s soap bubbles and to teach them compassion in action in a world that desperately needs it.”

For Mr. Crossen, just like all other prominent social justice issues, talking to students about the Palestinian genocide is nonnegotiable and is essential to their development as human beings. He hopes the discussions he prompts in class will inspire his students to take action when they see injustice in the world as he states, “An education, especially a liberal education is designed to help students learn to think and to act.”

While my search for information and communal support for Palestine has not been found at my college, it is being practiced in my home city. Palestine is over 5,975 miles away from Pittsburgh, but that distance has done nothing to deter come of its residents from showing their support for full liberation of the land. Since early October, Pittsburgh has been home to a number of protests, demonstrations, and forums addressing the Palestinian genocide.

Political organizations, like Pittsburgh’s chapter of the Party for Socialism and Liberation have focused on organizing and taking action on a local level as they lead protests against Arconic, an industrial corporation located in downtown Pittsburgh that produces materials used to make aircrafts for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Calling attention to the occupation in general opens up discussions about how people can get involved on a local level. These conversations are then turned into actions as they encourage people to consider the role their community plays in the genocide.

Caleb Jackson, a member of the PSL’s Pittsburgh chapter, reflected on this chain reaction and stated “I believe if we can help people connect locally (like with the Arconic action) it gives people this idea like hey in my own city/neighborhood I’m aiding in the genocide of these people. I don’t want a company like Arconic to freely exist here, let me do something about it.”

Although it can be easy to believe the idea that small actions made by a few people in an isolated part of the world can’t actually make a positive difference, the effects of collective action are undeniable. “I think people in the US are unaware of the power we hold...We’re socialized to be very individualistic,” Jackson said.

Jackson believes that it is because of global outrage against the occupation that the temporary cease-fire occurred. People from all over the world have banned together to show their support for Palestine and their condemnation of the Israeli government by participating in boycotts organized by the Boycott Divestment Sanctions, a movement made to end international support for Israel’s oppression of Palestinians. The movement targets specific companies to maximize their impact. These boycotts have resulted in a loss of \$11 billion in Starbucks’ value alone (Newsweek).

Community action works and is one of the best and only ways everyday civilians can show up for people who need it. Without directly confronting the genocide by starting the conversation, no progress can be made. Right now, the people of Palestine need us to show up for them in any way we can. It is undeniably our time to speak out, fight back, and remember to love our fellow man. There are things we can do at almost any level to show our support, but to get there, we must first be willing to start the conversation.

*Editor Note: The views and opinions expressed in this piece are solely the author’s. Publishing of any opinion piece does not represent endorsement of the piece by The Review staff or Saint Vincent College.*

**The Review Staff**

Editor-in-Chief  
Sean Callahan

Production Manager  
Anastasia Umrysh

Copy Editor  
Kateri Strub

Business Manager  
Kaylin Welsh

Digital Media Editor  
Elizabeth Crockett

News Editor  
Brianna Saylor

Arts & Culture Editor  
Elizabeth Van Pilsom

Sports Editor  
Jacob Rzempoluch

Staff Writers  
John Syms  
Alwyn Jimmy  
Tanner Adomaitis  
Lauren Campbell

Faculty Advisor  
Dennis McDaniel

The Review office is located  
next to the Wimmer Bridge.  
Office Number:  
724-805-2513

Contributions, Comments,  
Questions, Advertising:  
review@stvincent.edu

Website:  
stvincentreview.com

The Review is a member of the  
Associate Collegiate Press  
www.studentpress.org/acp

**Editorial Policy**

The Review always welcomes input from its readers, including all students, faculty, administrators, Benedictines and any other members of the SVC community. With regards to contributed, non-solicited works, The Review reserves the right to chose to accept or reject any submitted stories or letters to the editor for publication as well as the right to edit said pieces.

**Mission**

The mission of Saint Vincent College’s student-run newspaper, The Review, is to accurately and responsibly report campus, national and international news with integrity, fairness and objectivity. As a college newspaper, we assert that we will report on topics that interest our community, such as sports, popular culture, art & entertainment, politics and campus news. We affirm that each issue of The Review will reflect the diversity of the Saint Vincent College campus with respect for cul-