

## Bearcat runners spring to record heights

By: **Alwyn Jimmy**, Part Time Staff Writer



Timothy Patterson sprints to an impressive finish in the one-mile race.  
(SOURCE: STVINCENT.EDU)

With spring approaching at Saint Vincent College (SVC), the Track and Field Bearcats waste no time sprinting and leaping into action.

On Saturday, Jan. 27., the Men's Indoor Track and Field team competed at the Muskie Meet in the Bullock Health and Wellness Complex. SVC performed admirably with two podium finishes including a win in the one-mile race. The winning time, 4:16.79, is the 29th fastest in the country. It was set by Timothy Patterson, senior criminology major, who also set a new facility record.

That was not the only record broken. On Saturday, Jan. 20, Philip McNeal, freshmen business economics and finance major, set a new school record in the 400 meter race, finishing in 12th place.

With all eyes on track and field, McNeal is feeling confident.

"I feel the season is starting off good, not

just for me, but a lot of my teammates as well. We're getting better almost every meet and gaining personal bests," McNeal said. "A lot of our athletes have never run track before and the fact we're going up to par with a lot of D2 and even some D1 schools is amazing."

While confident, McNeal knows it will not be an easy year.

"The hardest aspect is trusting the process. Trusting that every workout and track meet adds up and that I'll overall become better and faster. Sometimes I have the urge to compare my results to how I did last week or a couple of days ago and unfortunately, I'm not going to see big results," McNeal said. "It's easy to get discouraged whenever that happens. All I can do is to trust myself, my coach and team that all our hard work is going to add up and turn out for the better."

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## Bearcats set for volleyball success

By: **Jacob Rzempoluch**, Sports Editor

The 2019 announcement of men's volleyball as the 24th varsity sport at Saint Vincent College (SVC) came with a question: what conference would the team compete in? At the time the President's Athletic Conference (PAC), which SVC is a member of, did not sponsor the sport. In 2020, the men's volleyball team would join the women's bowling team in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC). SVC joined the Geneva Golden Tornadoes and the Thiel Tomcats, two other PAC member schools, as affiliate men's volleyball teams.

In 2022 the PAC announced that the conference would sponsor men's volleyball beginning in the 2024-25 season due to increasing interest in the sport among member schools. A PAC Preview tournament was organized to allow several programs to face each other before the first season of PAC play. Hosted by SVC from Jan. 19-20, the tournament pitted SVC, Geneva, and Thiel against AMCC opponent Hiram and first-year programs from Bethany and Chatham.

The Bearcats entered the showcase with a strong squad and confidence from a 2-3 victory against the Lees-McRae Bobcat. Shawn McSwiggen, sophomore middle level education major, led the Bearcats with his 18-kill, 15-dig performance that would earn him Bearcat of the Week honors.

*Continued on page 3*



# SPORTS

## Patterson places nationally in mile race

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The SVC Indoor Track and Field program is having an impressive start to the season so far. (SOURCE: STVINCET.EDU)

The women Bearcats also had a good outing at the Muskie Meet with several lifetime bests being posted. At the Spire Midwest Open, Caroline Kozera, freshman environmental science major, set new school records.

“This season is going well so far. I’ve broken two school records, [the 200 and the 60-meter hurdles,] and I’d like to continue getting faster as the season progresses. I’m most looking forward to improving my times and bettering myself throughout the season.”

Although athletics is a passion for Kozera, challenges remain.

“The most difficult part about track is getting in your head. Running has a lot to do with your mind,” Kozera said. “If you’re mentally unavailable, then you’re not going to have

a good race. Luckily, with the team there, it’s easy to stay in the moment and run with all you’ve got.”

It is not only the athletes that have an important part to play. Coaches have a critical role in the success found on the track. Alex Parker, who works with the SVC track team, shares the athletes’ positivity regarding the current season:

“We have blown last season out of the water. We improved on all events and are becoming more and more competitive. Our sprints, hurdles, and jumps program is going on its 2nd year. We’re young, we’re growing rapidly, breaking records and have had a lot of impressive performances so far.”

Coach Parker who originally started off as an athlete himself, is just one part of the track and field team here at SVC who all work together in tandem to ensure that SVC continue to impress as the season progresses.

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# Men's Volleyball hosts conference preview tournament

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Sophomore Shawn McSwiggen strikes the ball in a home match against Lees-McRae. (SOURCE: WATKINS)



Senior Matthew Minkin and AMCC Co-Preseason Player of the Year sees the recognition as both an honor and a challenge. (SOURCE: WATKINS)

“It is an amazing honor to be named Bearcat of the Week!” said McSwiggen. It is a great accomplishment that I have strived to achieve throughout the season last year and hope to be named more in the future. I think without the ‘well-oiled machine’ of the team I am surrounded by I would not be able to fuel my success on the court.”

Matthew Minkin, senior political science major, also recorded a double-double in the Bearcats’ first victory. Last season, Minkin was named to the All-AMCC First Team. He was additionally highlighted as AMCC Co-Preseason Player of the Year for the 2023-24 season. SVC lost only two players who played more than 15 games last season, and already recruited three freshmen to replace the graduating talent.

The first day of the PAC Preview Tournament consisted of two big Bearcat wins. SVC swept Chatham 3-0 before defeating Geneva 3-1 a few hours later. McSwiggen recorded another double-double in the second match while the Bearcats recorded more kills, digs, blocks, and assists than their opponents in each game. Day two was not as successful for the Bearcats, with a 3-1 loss to Hiram and a hard-fought 3-2 loss against Thiel leaving SVC with a 2-2 record for the weekend. In the close Thiel match, Zaych Wyant, sophomore history major, recorded a team season-high 42 assists in a game that just barely slipped out of the Bearcats’ grasp.

“Both games were a battle but at the end of the day, we were beat up tired physically and mentally,” said McSwiggen. We proved that we could hang with the top teams in the conference, and we have plenty of time to prepare for when we match up with them in AMCC conference play. I know that we have all the pieces to prove that we can be the top team in the conference. Regardless it was a great weekend to start this long season and [we] cannot wait to compete more.”

The Bearcats hope to improve on their performance from last season, when they finished with a 11-10 overall record and a third-best 8-5 AMCC record.

“Last season we were taken down by Penn State Behrend in the conference semifinals so this year we have our sights set on a conference championship,” said Minkin. “We have only progressed individually and as a team since last year so we think we will be ready when the time comes. We returned most of our team and got a very strong freshmen class so we’re just working on getting better every day.”

# Team Standings

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	18	2	W9
Chatham	18	3	W3
Allegheny	11	9	W4
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	11	9	W5
Westminster	11	9	L1
Geneva	10	11	W1
Grove City	9	11	L1
Bethany	9	11	L5
Waynesburg	4	16	L4
Franciscan	4	17	L3
Thiel	0	21	L21

SCHEDULE: BETHANY 2/7 5:30 PM, W&J 2/10 4 PM, @ALLEGHENY 2/14 5:30 PM

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
Geneva	19	2	W11
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	18	2	W1
Chatham	13	8	W3
Westminster	10	10	W1
Waynesburg	10	10	L1
Bethany	8	12	W1
Grove City	10	10	L1
Thiel	7	14	L1
W&J	6	14	W1
Franciscan	7	13	L3
Allegheny	5	15	L9

SCHEDULE: BETHANY 2/7 7:30 PM, W&J 2/10 6 PM, @ALLEGHENY 2/14 8 PM

## WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	6	2	W4
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	8	2	W5
Franciscan	8	2	W1
Westminster	3	5	L2
W&J	3	7	W1
Allegheny	2	7	W1
Chatham	1	7	L6
Bethany	1	9	L8

SCHEDULE: PAC 2/14, 2/15, 2/16, 2/17 @GROVE CITY

## MEN'S SWIMMING

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	6	2	W4
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	5	4	W4
Westminster	3	5	L2
Chatham	1	6	L5
W&J	2	7	W1
Allegheny	1	7	W1
Bethany	0	7	L7

SCHEDULE: PAC 2/14, 2/15, 2/16, 2/17 @GROVE CITY

## MEN'S WRESTLING

Team	W	L	Streak
Thiel	4	1	L1
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	4	7	W2
W&J	5	10	W2
<b>Waynesburg</b>	1	17	L5

SCHEDULE: @PAC 2/16

\*Correct as of 2/2/24

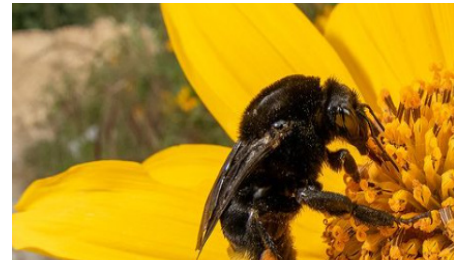


## ARTS AND CULTURE

## Searching for bumble bees

By: Elizabeth Van Pilsum, *Arts and Culture Editor*

From left to right, Gorg, Johnson, and Duennes on a field excursion in Chiapas with BOMBUSS. (SOURCE: DUENNES)



While in Chiapas, Duennes found the largest bumble bee she has ever seen, a queen *Bombuss mexicanus*. (SOURCE: Bolt)

In November 2023, Dr. Michelle Duennes, Assistant Professor of Biology, spent three weeks in Mexico conducting research on bumble bees, which is her area of expertise. Duennes was in Chiapas, the southernmost state in Mexico, from Nov. 11 to Dec. 8, 2023, and she spent most of her time in the city San Cristóbal de las Casas.

“I call [San Cristóbal de las Casas] ‘mi casa segunda’ because I would go there so much when I was still in grad school that it kind of felt like my second home,” Duennes said. “It’s a really wonderful city.”

The first week of her visit, Duennes participated in a conference called BOMBUSS, which stands for Building Our Methods Using Sound Science and is a play on the bumble bee’s genus, *Bombus*. BOMBUSS is a conference meant to bring together people from different parts of North America and Europe to discuss studies on bumble bees.

Duennes was part of a discussion about the endangered species list while at BOMBUSS, and she was also on a panel about citizen science and education where she talked about using bumble bees in the classroom at SVC. She brought with her to the conference two SVC students who were conducting their research projects in her lab, Bridgette Gorg, senior environmental studies major, and Lucy Johnson, senior biology major.

At the end of the week, Duennes went on a field excursion with the conference to an ecological reserve to look for bumble bees. She hiked up a mountain to go see colonies of stingless bees, which are kept in tiny boxes in a grotto as well as living in the wild in the crevices of the grotto. While Duennes did not find bumble bees there, she found other bees, including Africanized bees which stung her multiple times.

“I got stung nine times, mostly in the back of my head, because they’re attracted to dark colors, so they flew right in my hair,” Duennes said. “They were on the way up to the stingless bee colonies, so we had to walk back past them on the way back down, so I covered my hair and got completely silent and walked slowly. Only a couple people got stung on the way out. It wasn’t that painful.”

For the week following the conference, Duennes remained in Chiapas to do field research for the book she’s writing with Clay Bolt, nature photographer. The book is called *Bumble Bees of the Americas*, and it is a field guide to all bumble bees living in the Arctic all the way down to South America. Duennes helps Bolt find the bees, and Bolt photographs the ones they identify. Duennes then writes descriptions of the bees and their habitats to accompany the photographs.

While in Chiapas, Duennes and Bolt were looking for eleven species of bumble bees for their book, but they only ended up finding five. Their initial plan was to travel Chiapas extensively, but several of the sites they hoped to go to were inaccessible due to cartel activity, and so they were only able to search northern Chiapas. Every day in the field, Duennes made a list of places to scout based on where people have previously found bees and then set off in search of them.

“A lot of [field work] is driving around, rolling down the window slowly and looking at a patch of flowers from the side of the road and to see if there’s bees there,” Duennes said. “Every now and then you’ll see a big one, and that’s when you swerve off to the side of the road and jump out with your net.”

“Bees, bumble bees in particular, are more drawn to places people inhabit because we tend to grow flowers in them, so you’re not really in the middle of the wilderness looking for them,” Duennes said. “You’re on the side of the road looking for weeds or flowers in somebody’s garden, so it’s not super rugged field research.”

Duennes was very pleased with the results of her search and felt like she and Bolt made great progress on the book.

“We found this one species that’s kind of rare that I was really excited to find,” Duennes said. “There was this one field site that was just on the side of the road and [researchers] had seen *Bombus mexicanus* there and we found the biggest bee I’ve ever seen in my life. I think she was two inches long. We caught a lot of them!”

For the final week of her time in Mexico, Duennes worked in a museum at ECOSUR, a university in San Cristóbal de las Casas, looking at bumble bees under a microscope and then drawing them by hand. The drawings were made with colored pencils to capture the bees’ color pattern, and they will be digitized and put in the book.

“The ones I was drawing for the most part were the ones we couldn’t find,” Duennes said. “We want to put them in the book because the guide isn’t just something you take on vacation with you to figure out what bees there are. We want it to be a way to learn about species you may never see.”

*Bumble Bees of the Americas* is expected to be published in 2027, so there is still lots of work to be done. Still, Duennes feels as though she made lots of progress while in Chiapas and that getting photographs of the species they found there was very exciting.

# There's Blood in the Classroom

By: EJ Kammerer, Contributor

Three fifteen-year-old students exchanged stolen guns on the bus on the way to school and in a bathroom on school grounds. When Hempfield Area High School administration was notified of this occurring, a school lockdown went underway. As police arrived on the scene, they searched two of the students' backpacks and found two firearms fully loaded. There was no indication, according to the police, if there was intent to cause an attack on campus. However, one of the students "allegedly threatened another student while they were in class" without making the firearm visible. This incident in the classroom resulted in the perpetrator being charged with "terroristic threats." (CBS News)

Violence is an epidemic in our world. One cannot turn on their local or national news channel, look up current events on their phone, or even talk to someone about the current state of the world without a form of such evil being displayed or discussed. This topic can and usually is intense, terrifying, and even overwhelming as people are constantly reminded of how one person or a group of people take physical force to get what they desire or send some sort of message. One place that helps children and adults get away from this destructive force is in the classroom.

Schools, ideally, should be a safe space for students to learn and feel secure, away from the insecurities of their environment at home or outside of the classroom in general. For some students, school is the only safe place in their lives to be fed, learn, and have positive social interactions. According to the National Center for Education Statistics in 2016, students who live in poor households in first through twelfth grade made up 19 percent of the school-age population. This statistic indicates that there is an unfortunate number of students who do not feel safe or comfortable and have unmet necessities in their homes, making their school environment a safe place to have their unmet needs met. However, school shootings, an issue plaguing our schools, takes away this sanctity and safety for students who crave comfort. For students at Hempfield, on October 3, 2023, this nightmare could have become a tragic reality.

As evidenced by the incident at Hempfield Area High School, violence and weapons being brought into school is not a "boogeyman" to scare children and faculty; this is an issue that has been and may continue to be present in our local community. In fact, violence in nearby school districts occurred before this incident at Franklin Regional Senior High School. However, in this case, blood was shed.

On April 9, 2014, a sixteen-year-old sophomore brought a knife to school with the intention to attack. The incident was reported to authorities by a security guard on campus at 7:13 a.m., just minutes before the start of school. In the hallways of the school, 24 people were injured in the stabbing; 21 students and one security guard were stabbed, and two other people were injured. At least five students were critically wounded, "including a boy who was on a ventilator after a knife pierced his liver, missing his heart and aorta by only millimeters," according to doctors. (CBS News) Even though he was a juvenile, Alex Hribal was charged with four counts of attempted homicide and 21 other counts.

There was a counselor on campus when tragedy struck the classroom: John Easton. "I was in my office on my phone with another track coach when the first screams were heard," he

recalled, assuming there was a fight occurring in the school. When he took off to break up this "fight," a student ran up to Easton who was hiding in the nurse's office and told him what actually happened. The two ran back into the nurse's office "and found a grisly scene with two severely injured young people," as he put it. The nurse instructed Easton to call 911 and proceeded to apply pressure to an abdominal wound. Paramedics arrived 15 to 20 minutes later, causing the counselor to help students evacuate and attempt post-crisis management.

Violence occurring in schools has a severe lasting effect on the atmosphere in the classroom. According to John, such a tragic scene worsened through media coverage "which was only loosely based in fact," the following three years were quite frankly awful for the school's atmosphere. Even to this day, the effects still resonate. "Every fire drill is announced in advance because the alarms trigger people," lamented Easton.

I am an early childhood education major and have begun my pre-student teaching journey as of writing this piece. When my future students enter the classroom, I want them to feel safe in my care and comfortable enough to learn, let alone stay in the school building for upwards of seven hours. How can I reasonably provide this care with the looming thought of a student, faculty member, or stranger bringing a weapon to the school building?

First and foremost, students need to have trust that the faculty at school will protect them from potential threats. However, preventing violence in schools is not that easy. As

John Easton put it, "I think it is like trying to get toothpaste back in the tube." This problem is deeply rooted in our society. He continues, "The perpetrator in [the stabbing at Franklin Regional] had a psychotic break. He perseverated on the Columbine assailants and wanted that same 'glory' that they got. He was neither bullied nor a bully."

To protect students from threats at school, there are a few solutions that I can think of. A resource officer being present on campus during school hours can help keep children safe in the classrooms. In addition, metal detectors could be placed at the entrance of buildings in nationwide school districts. This implementation has long been a hot topic of discussion. Retractors could ask, don't you think a metal detector in front of an elementary school is overkill? Absolutely not. Safety does not have an age requirement, and, unfortunately, anyone can enter even an elementary school with a weapon. After all, I would prefer teaching and going to a school that takes even excessive measures to ensure no innocent lives are lost and no blood is shed. Learning and peer-and-teacher interaction should be the only things that students should focus on in school, not whether they will live another day.

Education about mental health being readily available with credible mental health services could also help combat potential psychotic breaks. But Easton and I have our doubts that these services will become readily available soon. As the counselor put it, "intelligent people with people skills often do not want to work for 19 dollars an hour with a master's degree." Instead, I believe that current teachers can include socioemotional teaching techniques and encourage students to be aware of their own mental health. Some socioemotional techniques that can be applied include teaching daily habits (getting enough sleep, regular exercise, etc.), how to build a support network with friends and family you can trust, and how to show compassion for yourself. This implementation allows students to discover solutions and methods to combat the stress and worries of their lives with help from their educators.

*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.*

# NEWS

## Welcome Professor Gibson and Dr. Kalhofer

By: Lauren Campbell, Staff Writer



New professor of accounting Christina Gibson  
(SOURCE: LINKEDIN)



New professor of finance Dr. Christian Kalhofer  
(SOURCE: LINKEDIN)

The McKenna School of Business welcomed several new professors at the start of the 2023 Fall Semester, including Accounting Instructor Christina Gibson and Finance Professor Dr. Christian Kalhofer.

Gibson is excited to bring her experience in the corporate world, especially her work with companies like EY and Deloitte, to the students at Saint Vincent College (SVC). She is excited to transition into an academic setting after spending nearly 14 years working in the accounting department at Kennametal. Professor Gibson lives in Greensburg, PA, with her husband, Mark, and their two daughters.

“I wanted to make a change from corporate life to academia. To start this transition to academia, I had been adjusting at SVC, as well as some other local institutions,” said Gibson. “I found that SVC was the best fit for me, with small class sizes allowing for a personalized touch, the benediction values, and the friendliness of both students and staff. I really loved it from the beginning and was thrilled when an opportunity to teach full time at SVC presented itself.”

Now at SVC, Gibson hopes to accomplish higher enrollment rates for the accounting department by promoting the program to various local high schools. She spoke highly of the school’s accounting program, which has both high job placement and CPA pass rates.

“I think prospective students from these local high schools don’t always realize the educational value that is right in their backyard,” said Gibson.

Kalhofer is married with two children and holds a Ph.D. in Finance and a master’s degree in Business Administration and Mechanical Engineering. He previously worked as a professor of

Finance in Egypt, Cairo, Paris, and several places in Germany. Most recently, he was Academic Director for the Master of Science Programs at a private Business school in Montabaur, Germany.

Dr. Mattias Hühn, a professor at the McKenna School and a good friend of Kalhofer, was the one to bring SVC to his attention.

Kalhofer spoke highly of the school and his colleagues in the McKenna School.

“I like [SVC] a lot. The colleagues at McKenna are great, the students are friendly, willing to learn, and very polite.”

Kalhofer’s hopes to use his time at SVC to get more students interested in the field of finance and improve the school’s bank management.

“I want to get students excited about finance because it is an important and extremely interesting field. In addition, I would like to strengthen the school’s competence in state-of-the-art bank management, which is my second area of expertise.”

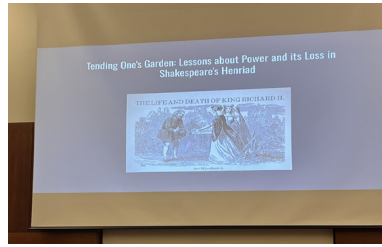
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# A garden of regimes

By: **Tanner Adomaitis**, *Staff Writer*



Dr. Joseph Wysocki visited Saint Vincent College as a guest speaker for the Center for Political and Economic Thought. (SOURCE: CPET FLYER)



Title slide of Dr. Wysocki's presentation that accompanied the lecture. (SOURCE: ADOMAITIS)

On Tuesday, Jan. 24, Dr. Joseph Wysocki of Belmont Abbey College visited Saint Vincent College (SVC) to give a lecture titled *Tending One's Garden: Lessons About Power and Its Loss in Shakespeare's Henriad* for the Center for Political and Economic Thought (CPET).

Wysocki earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics from Belmont Abbey College, followed by earning his Master of Arts and Ph.D. in Political Science from Baylor University. Wysocki has since returned to Belmont Abbey College as the Interim Provost and Dean of the Honors College.

Wysocki began his talk by providing an overview of Shakespeare's *Henriad* before stepping into the analogy of political regimes as gardens from a passage from "Richard II" that would reappear throughout the talk.

"What I wanted to think about with this talk, is what we might consider this image of good gardening as it relates to a regime. In the passage, there are certain verbs we might consider that relate to gardening, such as binding and supporting. What might a ruler do to bind and support certain things, such as ideas, people, and populations in a regime?" Wysocki said.

Another running theme throughout Wysocki's lecture was gaining, maintaining, and losing power, and how the constant struggle between the three affects regimes. Using the metaphor of crowns for power, Wysocki addressed how modern regimes are constantly shifting their power.

"In modernity, crowns are always being lost," Wysocki said.

Wysocki furthered his talk by comparing various passages from the *Henriad* plays to each other as well as to other philosophers, such as Alexis De Tocqueville, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Friedrich Nietzsche and their philosophies regarding power and politics. Wysocki then began his conclusion by questioning the missing beliefs of rulers within the *Henriad*.

"We reflect on power, we reflect on politics, but what is missing?" Wysocki said. "For those of us who are Christians, there seems to be a missing response to the loss of one's garden."

In the *Henriad*, the loss of one's garden should bring to mind the loss of the Garden of Eden. I'm not convinced that the kings in the *Henriad* faced with loss of their kingdom or life ever considered death or judgment."

Wysocki's lecture concluded with questions from the audience, focusing on the effects of regimes as gardens and examining Shakespeare's political thought.

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