

Partaking in Portugal

By: Brianna Saylor, News Editor



Portugal features unique architecture in many pictures taken by trip attendees. (SOURCE: ERIN BRODY)

Have you dreamed of spending a little time in Europe? Several Saint Vincent College (SVC) students and professors made that dream a reality this past week when they embarked on a week-long trip to Portugal over Spring Break! Travelers departed from Pittsburgh International Airport on Friday, March 1, headed for Lisbon, Portugal, and returned to the United States on Saturday, March 9. The trip lasted for nine days and was filled with once-in-a-lifetime memories of charming Portuguese architecture, castles, European cuisine, and beautiful landscapes.

The McKenna School of Business is known for what has become its annual Around the World Trip to Europe, organized and led by the college during Spring Break every year. While many moving parts are involved in making this trip happen from year to year, Professor Robert Markley, Business Ad-

ministration Instructor, has played a critical role in planning and executing these trips for many years.

Planning and executing these large-scale trips can be daunting, especially for those unfamiliar with travel preparation. However, behind the scenes, professors and faculty at SVC take care of all the logistics and preparation so that travelers can have an enjoyable experience while abroad.

This particular trip was unique because travelers stayed in several different parts of Portugal throughout their time in Europe. The first few nights, they stayed in Lisbon and then spent two nights in Fatima, but before arriving at Fatima, they spent some time exploring the fishing town of Nazaré and the romantic medieval village of Óbidos.

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Champs of the Ice

By: John Syms, Staff Writer

After finishing the regular season with 15 wins and three defeats, the Saint Vincent College (SVC) men's ice hockey team needed two more victories to be crowned the College Hockey East (CHE) champions. Heading into the playoffs, the Polar Bearcats topped the conference as the one-seed. They scored 104 regular season goals, which was the most of any team. Nathan Loughner, freshman business administration major, led the team in goals as he scored twenty-one points during the regular season, four during the CHE playoffs, and two during the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) playoffs.

On Friday, Feb. 24, SVC competed against the fifth seeded Pitt-Johnstown at the Palmer Imaging Arena in Delmont, Pa, in a semi-final match. They defeated the Mountain Cats with a score of 8-1, as Loughner led the team in scoring with three goals.

After a strong victory in their semi-final match, SVC faced off against Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) on Feb. 25 for the championship back at the same arena they defeated Pitt Johnstown. History would be made in Delmont as the hockey team managed to win the CHE conference title for the first time by defeating the Crimson Hawks with a score of 3-2.

The game started off 1-0, as Logan Connelly, senior psychology major, scored the first goal of the match. IUP managed to net a second period goal, but the Bearcats would retake the lead, as Loughner would score to make the game 2-1. Zachary Riddilla, sophomore environmental engineering major, would give the team an advantage by adding the winning goal, making the score 3-1. The Crimson Hawks added back another point, but it wasn't enough to defeat SVC.

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NEWS

Student provides insight on traveling abroad

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The landscapes of Portugal were another sight trip attendees captured. (SOURCE: ERIN BRODY)

In contrast, last year’s McKenna School spring break trip was taken to Munich, Germany, and trip attendees stayed in one hotel there, taking a bus to different locations throughout the week.

Erin Brody, senior English and theology double major, reflected on her time in Portugal, explaining, “Staying in different places throughout the trip gave us a taste of the different parts of Portugal, especially when we visited Evora. It was nice to get a sense of Portugal outside of its capital.”

This was Brody’s first time traveling outside of the United States. She says that while she felt a mixture of nervousness and excitement—now, she is so happy that she went.

Undoubtedly, college can be a financially stressful time for many students. However, Brody has advice to offer to students who might be on the fence about attending these trips in the future.

“I always wanted to travel and study abroad, but studying abroad for something longer than Spring Break was just not feasible for me,” Brody said.

She explained how shorter trips during Spring Break, for example, are a perfect opportunity for students in a similar situation. For Brody, this trip allowed her to visit somewhere she had never been and, coincidentally enough, she had previously done a travel segment on Portugal, so when the trip was announced, she just knew this was a full-circle moment, and she had to go.

Notably, many students do not realize that these trips are often not exclusive to the department hosting the trip.

“Aside from being an Aurelius Scholar, I really had nothing to do with the business school, but I still wanted to go somewhere that is not on many people’s lists,” Brody said.

Brody has one piece of advice she would give students interested in attending these kinds of trips in the future: “Even if it is a destination that you might not think you’re interested in, still keep it in mind and save up because it might just end up being the trip of a lifetime.”

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SVC Hockey team wins conference title

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Vincent Amatucci, sophomore health science major, lifts up College Hockey East trophy belt
(SOURCE: SVC HOCKEY)



Photo 2: SVC Hockey celebrates the conference title
(SOURCE: SVC HOCKEY)

After the CHE championship game, the Bearcats qualified for the national ACHA tournament in St. Louis, Missouri. The team was placed in a pool to face three other teams, and if they finished first in the group, they would advance to the final four. However, SVC lost to Lawrence Tech, the eventual winners of the ACHA tournament, 10-1, followed by another loss to the University of Arkansas with a score of 6-1. They pulled off one last win of the season against Colby College, beating the Mules with a score of 9-5.

Ridilla led the team in ACHA goals with three and finished off the regular season with thirteen goals and fourteen assists. He was additionally pleased with the way the team played all year, and already cannot wait for how next season will turn out.

“We worked so hard all year to accomplish our goals, and winning the championship was just part of it, and as for next year, we have most of the same core returning plus some new guys we know about already.”

Connelly would finish his last season with the Bearcats by reaching 100 career points in a year he will remember forever.

“Finally getting a CHE championship, going to nationals, and getting a win at nationals is an incredible accomplishment for the program and is only the building blocks on to more,” Connelly said.

“Going to the championship two straight years and losing, I wanted this one more than any other game, and so we prepared as we did any other game and went out there and gave it our all against a good IUP team. Just the feeling of lifting that trophy with my hockey family is a feeling that I wouldn’t trade for the world.”

SVC won’t play another game until the fall, but the future is looking bright for the Bearcats with the young talent they have now, as the team had over seven freshman players.

SVC to Dublin

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



The trip attendees took a group photo near Ben Bulbin, a flat-topped rock formation that is part of the Dartyry Mountains in County Sligo, Ireland. (SOURCE: NOLAN CASEY)



Castles are among some of the unique architecture that can be found in Ireland. (SOURCE: ISABELLA JOLLY)

Over the week of Spring break, Saturday, March 2 through Sunday, March 10, Dr. Dennis McDaniel, Associate Professor of English, took his Literary Dublin class to Ireland where they were immersed in the rich culture of the country.

Junior Marketing major Nolan Casey and sophomore History major Isabella Jolly both cited a desire to visit Ireland as a key motivator to take the class.

“I originally saw the class advertised in a flyer on the door of the post office and I was waiting for a chance to go to Ireland sometime in my life, so it caught my eye,” Casey said.

Jolly also cited an interest in reading literature surrounding Dublin itself as a motivator and enjoyed the overlap between literature and history that the class presented.

“We did a lot of walking tours based off the authors we read and got to see a lot of historical markers because of it. We visited several museums - my personal favorite was the Chester Beatty Library behind Dublin Castle, which has a huge collection of scripture from different religions,” Jolly said. “But we also got to explore a lot of Dublin ourselves and immerse ourselves with the culture and the people around us. It was a great experience and many of the locals were very sweet!”

Both Casey and Jolly stated that their favorite part of the trip was visiting Sligo and the countryside where they visited Ben Bullben and neighboring cities and places that inspired the poems of W. B. Yeats.

“My favorite part had to be the Yeats tour. We were immersed in nature for most of it, and it was gorgeous,” Jolly said. “We visited Ben Bullben and it was beautiful. I would have climbed it if they let me.”

Casey also emphasized the beauty of nature.

“The countryside was beautiful. So much of the countryside

had stone-built structures from naturally found stone,” she said. “You can see how people used to divide land and see old structures like towers. You really get a sense of an old country and culture that predates you but in harmony with nature.”

The planned tours and locations coincided with literature that was read in the class, and both Casey and Jolly stated that the exposure to and discussion of the literature helped prepare them for the tours and allowed them to have greater insight into what they learned while in Ireland. The class will also be presenting on their trip and what they learned at the 2024 Academic Conference.

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SPORTS

Heartbreak in the hoop's finale

By: Alwyn Jimmy, *Part Time Staff Writer*

Geneva fans celebrate after the final whistle of the PAC Championship (SOURCE: JIMMY)



This year's Men's Basketball Team ended the season with a final overall record of 23 wins to 5 losses. (SOURCE: SVC WEBSITE)

In front of a packed gymnasium at Saint Vincent College, the men's Saint Vincent basketball team pulled off a nail-biting victory in overtime to book their place in the final of the Presidents' Athletic Conference Championship Tournament, beating Chatham 88-83. As the final whistle barely echoed through the screams of both the players and the delirious crowd, there was a real belief that this year could be the one. Around the same time, news filtered through that Geneva had just edged past Grove City in similar fashion. The Bearcats were to face Geneva in the PAC Championship.

The Bearcats stepped out onto the court to lively crowd. They started brightly, scoring six without reply. Yet after this, things derailed for the visitors as Geneva would outscore them 18-2 over the next several minutes. Bolstered by the crowd, Geneva finished strong, going into the break with an eleven-point lead. The Bearcats endured a nearly 8-minute scoreless stretch from which they never truly recovered from. The second half continued in a similar fashion as Geneva continued to consistently outscore the visitors, and as the final whistle loomed, the gap only continued to widen. There were wild scenes of jubilation as the referee signalled the end of the game as the home crowd stormed the court.

Despite the harsh defeat, Coach Don Paul Harris remained positive. He chose to focus on the journey to the final itself and commended his opponents.

"Geneva is a very good team. We split the season series with them, each winning at home, and both games being decided by under five points," Harris said. "If anything, I think this shows how important the entire season is and securing that home court advan-

tage throughout the conference tournament."

Harris said that while he would have loved for there to be a different result at the championship for the players—particularly seniors—and for the fans, there can only be one winner.

"I thought Geneva played a great team game and deserved to win it," Harris said. "For myself, the staff, our guys, we just need to remember this feeling, learn from it, and let that drive us going forward."

Although competing in the ECAC tournament was not the initial plan for the Bearcats, Harris and his team were grateful to still have a chance to continue beyond the season end. He still feels it is something to be proud of.

"This was a great year. Looking back on the season to this point, it was a very enjoyable one with a group of men that I have enjoyed spending time with both on and off the court," Harris said. "Last season, being the first season back, everyone was trying to get to know each other as we went. This year we added some new pieces, but we had many return from last season to build relationships that could grow deeper. Guys had a better chemistry with others on the court."

The last time the Men's Basketball Team won the PAC Championship and entered the NCAA Tournament was 2016. They beat Thomas More College 65-62 and went on to face #5 John Carroll University in the first round of the tournament. Harris and the Bearcats certainly hope to take another shot at this after a historic season record of 23 wins to 5 losses

Team Standings

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

| Team | W | L | Streak |
|----------------------|----|---|--------|
| Bethany | 11 | 0 | W11 |
| Allegheny | 9 | 1 | L1 |
| Waynesburg | 6 | 3 | W4 |
| Saint Vincent | 7 | 5 | W4 |
| Westminster | 7 | 5 | W3 |
| Grove City | 8 | 6 | W4 |
| W&J | 1 | 1 | L1 |
| Geneva | 6 | 8 | L1 |
| Thiel | 4 | 8 | L1 |
| Chatam | 2 | 8 | L7 |
| Franciscan | 1 | 7 | L5 |

SCHEDULE: JUNIATA 3/20 3 PM, @LA ROCHE 3/21 3 PM, CHATHAM 3/23 1 PM

MEN'S BASEBALL

| Team | W | L | Streak |
|----------------------|---|---|--------|
| Waynesburg | 7 | 4 | W2 |
| Geneva | 7 | 5 | L2 |
| Grove City | 8 | 6 | L1 |
| Allegheny | 6 | 5 | W2 |
| Chatham | 6 | 7 | L1 |
| Westminster | 5 | 7 | L1 |
| Franciscan | 2 | 4 | L2 |
| W&J | 2 | 5 | L2 |
| Bethany | 2 | 7 | W1 |
| Saint Vincent | 2 | 9 | L1 |
| Thiel | 1 | 7 | L6 |

SCHEDULE: MOUNT ALOYSIUS 3/19 2 PM, @PENN STATE FAYETTE 3/20, WAYNESBURG 3/23 1 PM

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

| Team | W | L | Streak |
|----------------------|---|---|--------|
| Thiel | 4 | 0 | W4 |
| Grove City | 4 | 3 | L1 |
| Bethany | 2 | 2 | L1 |
| Chatham | 2 | 3 | W1 |
| Westminster | 1 | 4 | L2 |
| Waynesburg | 1 | 5 | L1 |
| Saint Vincent | 0 | 3 | L3 |
| Franciscan | 0 | 4 | L4 |
| W&J | 0 | 4 | L4 |
| Allegheny | 0 | 5 | L5 |

SCHEDULE: MUSKINGUM 3/20 4 PM, URSULINE 3/24 1 PM, @FRANCISCAN 3/27 4 PM

MEN'S LACROSSE

| Team | W | L | Streak |
|----------------------|---|---|--------|
| Grove City | 6 | 4 | W3 |
| Franciscan | 6 | 2 | W4 |
| Westminster | 3 | 3 | L1 |
| Allegheny | 2 | 2 | W1 |
| Chatham | 3 | 4 | L2 |
| W&J | 1 | 4 | L4 |
| Thiel | 1 | 4 | W1 |
| Bethany | 1 | 5 | L5 |
| Saint Vincent | 0 | 6 | L6 |

SCHEDULE: @MARIETTA 3/20 7 PM, @LEBANON VALLEY 3/23 1 PM, @FRANCISCAN 3/27 7 PM

*Correct as of 3/16/2024

ARTS AND CULTURE

Keep it in the VALT this semester

By: Lauren Campbell, *Staff Writer*



Attendees check out VALT's "Nuts not Drugs" event
[SOURCE: SVC_VALT ON INSTAGRAM]

Looking for something fun to do on campus while also making healthy choices? VALT has you covered!

Vinny's Alternative Leadership Team (VALT) is a student-run organization dedicated to making Saint Vincent College (SVC) a safer and healthier campus. The group aims to promote a more inclusive campus by sponsoring fun events throughout the semesters. To date, they have already held a Madri Gras and Super Bowl party and even given out free chicken nuggets as a part of "Nugs not Drugs." They have also held a series of educational events, such as a Kahoot night on drug and alcohol safety and an informational presentation on Narcan.

Meghan Albertelli, director of the SVC Prevention Projects since 2021, created VALT as part of a series of initiatives aimed at sponsoring and hosting fun and educational events for students and providing resources for better understanding the risks that drugs and alcohol pose. VALT aims to show students that there are other ways to have fun without drinking and drug use.

"I hope that we are able to be that little reminder in the back of students' brains when they are possibly in a tricky situation," said Albertelli. "Our goal is not complete restriction, but realization. Most students don't know the true effects of drugs or alcohol unless something bad happens to them or someone they know. I want to make sure that students have true and useful information to avoid these tricky situations."

Albertelli, along with six students, makes up an executive board that discusses and plans events according to what the students of SVC want.

"They have all been part of the club since the Fall of 2021 when we truly started," Albertelli said. "They are all part of the executive board and discuss and plan activities for all the students. They are also given the responsibility that if anyone needs help on campus, students can come to them to get resources and information."

To keep up with VALT's events, follow [svc_valt](#) on Instagram or look out for flyers advertising their events.

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Latrobe Art Center

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