

A new market for Kidneys?

By: Tanner Adomaitis, Staff Writer



Guest speaker Ike Brannon visited Saint Vincent College to give a talk for the Center for Political and Economic Thought. (SOURCE: ADOMAITIS)

On March 13, 2024, Ike Brannon visited Saint Vincent College (SVC) to give a talk titled How Do We Eliminate The Kidney Shortage, for the Center for Political and Economic Thought (CPET). Brannon is the president of Capitol Policy Analytics and is an economist who focuses on public policy issues. He earned his B.A. in Math, Spanish, and Economics from Augustana College and his Ph.D. In Economics from Indiana University. Brannon also spent around a decade working for the government.

Brannon began his talk by discussing how many people don't have all the options available to receive a kidney transplant because they aren't aware of all the

options or aren't able to utilize them. He continued by explaining that there are not nearly enough kidney donations to help all people who need a kidney transplant, and how end stage kidney disease vastly disproportionately affects Black, Hispanic, and Native American people.

"One of my frustrations is that there is no collective outreach," Brannon said. "No one is trying to call attention to the fact that Black, Hispanic, and Native American people are being affected at a disproportionate rate, and part of the reason is that people think nothing can be done."

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Commuter Club comebacks

By: Brianna Saylor, News Editor

On Tuesday, March 26, the Commuter Club hosted an Easter egg hunt for students in Melvin Platz from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Commuters were invited to have fun collecting Easter eggs filled with candy. They were also encouraged to join the Citrone Family Commuter Center (CFCC) on Wednesday, March 27, for Easter treats before the break.

Bridget DiVittis, Assistant Director of Campus Ministry and Coordinator of Commuter Outreach, and Alec Barlock, senior Ed Curriculum and Instruction major and Graduate Assistant to Commuter Outreach, have worked tirelessly to put events together throughout the entire semester. They were excited to bring this event back again after having to pause it during the pandemic. This is the fourth annual Easter event the club has sponsored.

During the 2023-2024 academic year alone, the club has sponsored many events, such as a poll tournament, the annual chicken nugget eating contest, ice skating at Kirk S. Nevin Arena, several movie nights, and most recently, even an Easter decorating event earlier in March. DiVittis and Barlock were also excited to see the speaker series hit the ground running this year. Through their combined efforts, they welcomed and hosted several special speakers that included a free dinner with students. The special guests discussed a variety of topics, including Title IX.

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NEWS

Ike Brannon visits SVC to discuss kidney donations

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Brannon then explained that his original plan to help satisfy the shortage of kidneys so that everyone who needs one could receive one was to compensate people for donating kidneys. He noted that somewhere between \$50,000 and \$75,000 would be enough for several Good Samaritans to donate a kidney. Brannon cited a paper that revealed with a policy that would compensate people kidney donors, the number of transplants could rise from 25,000 to 75,000 a year and eliminate the shortage.

Brannon and his team pushing this policy were met with extreme pushback, with barely anyone agreeing to meet and hear the policy and reasoning. Brannon explained that people he sought to meet with found the idea grotesque and that it would be exploitative.

“There were two different things going on. I think the first thing is that there’s this initial thing in your head that it’s a lot of people and by paying people for kidney, you’re using them because they don’t understand the risk they are taking,” Brannon said. “We also got several people accusing us of racism and that we would exploit poor minorities. However, right now white people are taken care of. It is minorities who aren’t taken care of, and it is better if you donate kidneys within your race group.”

The push back caused Brannon and his team to reevaluate their idea and approach and look to other parts of the world where they found that reimbursement policies for kidneys donors in Israel seemed to be working. Brannon and his team have now been working to pass legislation to cover all expenses that are placed on a kidney donor through the process, and noted that while small compensation was already provided, covering the total cost would create more incentive for donation and take pressure off the donor.

Brannon noted that this approach rallied more allies and supporters by removing the concerns of exploitation. Brannon explained that it will be a long process ahead still and ended his talk with questions from the audience.

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Annual easter egg hunt returns for students

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Saint Vincent College Commuter Club members hide eggs in Melvin Platz for students to find during Easter celebration.
(SOURCE: BRIANNA SAYLOR)

In sponsoring these types of events, especially for commuters on campus, the Commuter Club hopes to provide a welcoming atmosphere where students have the space to decompress and relax but also blow off a little steam in between studying and going to class if they would like.

“Honestly, I’m just trying to make it more involved for students because it was not always this big, especially when I was a freshman compared to now a graduate student,” Barlock said. “Now I see juniors and seniors I have never seen before stopping in, and this speaks to the idea that we have always said we are a Commuter family and are always trying to make our family bigger.”

With over 400 commuter students on campus, the Commuter Lounge alone sees about 100 students daily in foot traffic. Barlock has been an integral part of this community for the past six years, first during all four years of his undergraduate and now through the past two years of his master’s degree at Saint Vincent.

“Whenever I was going through my undergrad, I wanted to be this amazing teacher and a good influence,” Barlock said. “But then as you get older, your area becomes more niche, and for me, I realized that doing so much SGA and community work was so amazing. It inspired me to continue to want to do more

work inside SVC and through that work it has influenced my professional work as well.”

As the semester ends, the Commuter Club has many exciting events in store. During Spring Family Weekend, they will be handing out popsicles to passing students, playing field games, and more. Then, on May 4, they will host the last event of the semester—the annual end-of-the-year pool party. Residents and commuters are both welcome to come to this event. It will be Star Wars-themed, and they plan to head back to the Commuter Lounge afterward to watch Star Wars.

Lastly, there will be one more guest lecturer in their speaker series, which will function as a commuter town hall.

“This is a great opportunity for people who live on campus but are looking to move off,” said Barlock.

Students are invited to come and talk with commuter students to see what it’s all about, to help them realize living off campus entails.

Barlock and DiVittis want to remind students that they are always welcome to stop in the lounge. A great community of students is here and happy to lend a hand, whether it be for the club, networking, or even a break.

SPORTS

Conference play soon!

By: John Syms, *Staff Writer*



Graduate Student Jordan Billet shoots a goal (SOURCE: WATKINS)

The Saint Vincent College (SVC) men's lacrosse team played their first regular season Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) match on March 27 against Franciscan University, winning with a score of 13 to 8.

The Bearcats were ranked second in the PAC preseason poll, behind the defending champions, Grove City. The Wolverines won the conference title four times in row, and they have a shot at winning their fifth straight championship. As of April 1, Grove City has played against two PAC schools, Bethany College and Thiel College, and defeated them both with a combined score of 26-1.

Last year, SVC competed against Grove City in the PAC title match and lost to the Wolverines with a score of 27-3. The previous year, the Bearcats lost to them in the conference championship match with a score of 17-4.

It has been a rough start for the Bearcats, losing their first six games of the 2024 season. SVC lost against teams from both the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) and North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC). However, on March 20, SVC captured their first win of the season against Marietta College, with a score of 11-4. They have since beat Lebanon Valley, and secured their first PAC win of the season against Franciscan on Wednesday, March 27.

Jordan Billet, criminology graduate student, led the way for the teams win first win at Marietta, by scoring two goals and recording two assists. Billet believes that the team has a chance at winning the PAC title this season, despite the rough start.

"The record of our team does not show how good we truly are. We have a lot of first-time starters this year, mixed with a very difficult out-of-conference schedule," Billet said. "I personally feel the best about this 0-6 team than I have felt about any of our previous seasons, and this team is battle tested, gritty, and willing to work hard to achieve goals we've set for ourselves."

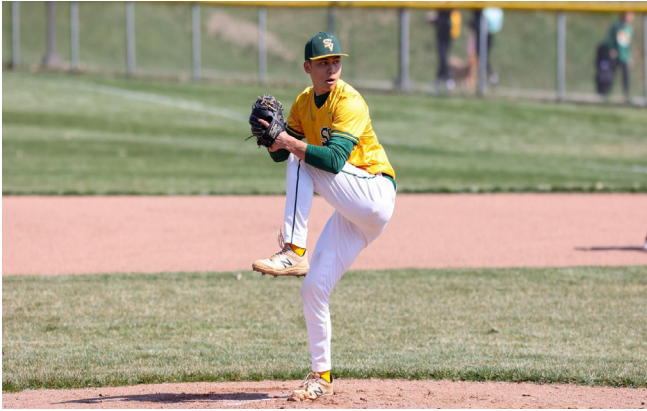
During the 2023 season, Billet scored 38 goals and had 32 assists, and played in 17 games. He is 22 assists away from recording 100 career assists and was additionally named to the All-PAC First Team in the 2022 and 2023 season. Even with a 1-6 record as of March 22, Billet believes that the lacrosse season is going great.

"This season so far is going well, on paper it may not seem so, but I have never been a part of a more hungry and motivated team than this. The winning started yesterday and should not stop for the rest of the year. I promise we will be back in the PAC championship, and there is nothing more that this team wants than a PAC title."

From March 27 to April 27, SVC will only be competing against schools from the PAC. The men's lacrosse team will play four home games and three away games for the rest of the season until the conference tournament, where six teams will compete for the title.

Home run hopefuls of SVC

By: Alwyn Jimmy, *Part Time Staff Writer*



Jermey Kreuzwieser prepares to pitch the ball during a game.
(SOURCE: WATKINS)



Junior L.J Evans prepares to attempt a hit during a game.
(SOURCE: WATKINS)

With the baseball season fully underway, the SVC baseball team is looking to impress as the Bearcats continue PAC play in a doubleheader at home, against Chatham, on Tuesday, April 9, and another doubleheader at Westminster on Saturday, April 13.

The team has had a mixed start to their campaign with a split against Waynesburg in their PAC opener on March 22, a tight loss against Washington and Jefferson on March 27, and a split against Franciscan on April 6.

Outfielder J'Shawn Taylor, senior psychology major, gave his feedback on the Waynesburg game.

"We'll be looking to take care of the little details of the game. Communication on the field is something that we have been stressing a lot lately, so seeing the adjustments we have made and getting a chance to implement them in the game is going to be big for us the rest of the way," Taylor said.

He explained that no matter how much they are down by, the Bearcats feel they have a chance to win the game. He feels this showed in how close the Waynesburg game was. Taylor explained that if they keep that mentality and continue to fight late in games, they will put themselves in a good position to win more games.

The close games Taylor alludes to are not foreign to the Bearcats. They lost their games against Washington and Jefferson by scores of 9 to 10 and 5 to 8, respectively, and lost one of their games against Franciscan with an ending score of 10 to 11. During that Franciscan game, the Bearcats were outscored 6 to 0 in the first inning, only to respond with 5 unanswered points in the second inning, setting the stage for the rest of the tight game. On an inverse note, they won one of their games against Waynesburg with a score of 6 to 5.

However, a non-conference doubleheader against Hiram ended in a comprehensive loss for the travelling Bearcats in Berea, Ohio. While they managed to keep the score respectable in the second game, losing 3 to 6, they were blown away in the first, losing the game 1 to 12. With the team looking to bounce back, the result was a reminder that in order to be the best, consistency is key.

Taylor knows there is always hope to win the PAC championship, and for this to be the year. But he reminds himself what is most important at the end of the day.

"My goals individually align with the goals of the team. I just want to continue being a great teammate, helping us win however I'm needed that day – whether it's a start, a pinch at bat, or to pinch-run late in the game," Taylor said. "To be a successful team, you need everyone to play their part for that day, and if we remain consistent in that mindset, we can achieve all of our goals within the season."

While competition remains fierce and training can be gruelling, Taylor perseveres, reminding himself of why he plays.

"The fact that I get to compete with my friends, some who I've known for four years now and others that I've made a bond with just this year, is my favourite part," Taylor said. "We made multiple trips down to Latrobe High School to play our fall season, we all woke up to practice at 5:30 a.m together, not to mention the 18 hours plus bus rides to and from Florida, and another 8-hour ride to and from Virginia. Just getting to play the game is enough, but to do it with this group of guys makes it even more enjoyable."

The Bearcats will be hoping to obtain further victories in a non-conference game at La Roche on Thursday, April 11, and in a PAC game at Westminster on Saturday, April 13.

Team Standings

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
Allegheny	12	4	W2
Waynesburg	12	5	W5
Westminster	13	7	W3
Grove City	11	7	L1
Saint Vincent	11	7	L1
Bethany	16	3	W3
W&J	5	9	W1
Thiel	7	13	L1
Geneva	7	11	L2
Chatam	4	18	L3
Franciscan	1	15	L13

SCHEDULE: @FRANCISCAN 4/11 3:30 PM, WESTMINSTER 4/13 1 PM, ALLEGHENY 4/18 3:30 PM

MEN'S BASEBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	12	7	W8
Waynesburg	12	10	W2
Allegheny	11	6	W1
Thiel	6	8	W1
Grove City	10	8	W1
Westminster	8	11	W1
Bethany	8	11	L1
Geneva	10	8	L2
Saint Vincent	4	16	W1
Franciscan	3	12	L1
Chatham	7	14	L4

SCHEDULE: @LA ROCHE 4/11 4 PM, @WESTMINSTER 4/13 1 PM, @GROVE CITY 4/17 1 PM

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	8	3	W4
Chatham	5	4	W1
W&J	4	6	W4
Allegheny	5	4	W2
Thiel	5	4	L3
Saint Vincent	2	6	W1
Westminster	2	7	L1
Franciscan	1	7	L2
Bethany	2	8	L7
Waynesburg	1	9	L5

SCHEDULE: ALLEGHENY 4/13 11 AM, BETHANY 4/18 7 PM, @THIEL 4/20 12 PM

MEN'S LACROSSE

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	9	4	W6
Allegheny	5	5	W2
Westminster	7	4	L1
W&J	3	6	W2
Chatham	6	5	W1
Saint Vincent	3	7	L1
Franciscan	7	5	L3
Bethany	5	7	L2
Thiel	3	6	L2

SCHEDULE: WESTMINSTER 4/10 4 PM, ALLEGHENY 4/13 7 PM, BETHANY 4/17 3 PM

MEN'S TENNIS

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	7	2	W4
Allegheny	8	5	W3
Geneva	5	1	L1
Saint Vincent	9	4	W1
Franciscan	3	8	L1
Westminster	1	4	L2
Thiel	1	2	L2
W&J	3	7	L2
Waynesburg	1	7	L4

SCHEDULE: @WAYNESBURG 4/11 4 PM, PITT-GREENSBURG 4/13 9:30 AM, MCDANIEL 4/13 3:30 PM

*Correct as of 4/7/2024

ARTS AND CULTURE

Welcome to the neighborhood

By: Brianna Saylor, *News Editor*



David Newell a.k.a. Mr. Mcfeely takes commemorative photo with SVC student Matthew Boyer.
(SOURCE: MATTHEW BOYER)

The Fred Rogers Institute hosted its first-ever community open house on Tuesday, March 12, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m in the Fred Rogers Center. Student and faculty members close to the Institute expressed gratitude for being part of this growing community, getting to know their neighbors, and sharing resources and opportunities. This event was the perfect occasion for the community to learn about the opportunities and resources available through the Institute while celebrating Fred and his legacy during his birthday month.

The event featured many exciting things for attendees to enjoy, including a basket raffle that featured many local businesses, the chance to meet Chili the Mini Horse from Chili Pepper Mini Horse Therapy, a pop-up exploration that features items from the Fred Rogers Archive, trolley cookies, and a special Fred-inspired exhibit in the McCarl Coverlet Gallery.

Additionally, the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve had nature items on display for children and families to explore. Fred Rogers Scholars led puppet making and other activities during the event. Members from the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit, WQED, and the Latrobe Art Center also joined for in event and all brought items to accompany their respective tables for families and educators to enjoy. Finally, David Newell—aka Mr. McFeely on Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood—was in attendance and took photos with students and members of the

community.

While many in attendance found the festivities quite enjoyable, the gathering was especially meaningful to Matthew Boyer, junior political science major at SVC. In reflecting on what this event meant to him, Boyer explained that he met his childhood idol, Mr. McFeely, nearly fourteen years ago in Kane, PA, and met him again at SVC this past week, as he proudly wore his red cardigan in memory of his other idol.

Boyer commented on the event, explaining that it really gave people the opportunity to see what Fred really set out to accomplish for his community and seeing how it all came together through this one made and the vision he had was truly inspiring. Prior to his studies at SVC, Boyer did not know about the Fred Rogers Institute, however, his relationship to Rogers has only been further furnished by his time at SVC.

“Growing up during a time when Mr. Rogers was still being aired on television and then turning to the point where I am in my life right now, it’s incredible to realize just how much the entire legacy for Rogers and his message has been something that I have drawn a lot of inspiration from my entire life,” Boyer said

Boyer further explained that even as a politics major, Rogers messages still resonates with him. Specifically, the fact that everyone is human, everyone can be loved—and that the

Institute is where Rogers’ legacy lives. Rogers lived by a three-digit number—the numerical way to say I love you and Boyer felt this illustrated the fact that every person is special in their own way.

“Not everyone is going to fit in the mold of society, and I greatly see myself as someone who is like that, someone who may not be the most popular but could nonetheless go out and do extraordinary things because when you do it with love, you start to see the world in the most beautiful of ways,” Boyer said.

For him, it comes down to looking at how we are as a society.

“We are innately a being that needs love to survive, and we live in a time that, now more than ever, needs that love that Rogers championed. We need to find new ways within society, within our classrooms to make sure that his messages continues and that even though Fred is gone, his legacy will continue to inspire and uplift generations to come,” Boyer said.

The mission has only begun, and it is up to us to make sure we continue to make it a snappy new day, every day in the neighborhood.

Learn how to listen with the ear of the heart

By: Lauren Campbell, *Staff Writer*



Theology and English major Sarah Morgan Burger presenting her academic essay “The Lord Confused the Language of the Whole World” at the Examined Life Conference (SOURCE: @SVC_THEOLOGY ON INSTAGRAM)



Examined Life Conference Keynote speaker Kenneth Parker (SOURCE: duq.edu)

On March 23, 2024, the annual Examined Life Conference: An Undergraduate Conference in the Liberal Arts was held at our very own Saint Vincent College (SVC) campus. The conference rotates its host schools every year, and this year, SVC was the host.

This year’s theme was “Listening with the Ear of the Heart,” which emphasized listening across disciplines, from humanities and social sciences to natural sciences and creative arts. Keynote speaker Kenneth Parker, Chair of the Catholic Studies Department at Duquesne University, spoke on March 23rd about the three listening elements of a faith-filled life. Parker used stages of a person’s life to describe these elements, calling them the “Child’s Way,” the “Youth’s Way,” and the “Mature Person’s Way.”

“It’s not about following an authority. It’s not about using your reason,” Parker said during the talk. “What are you doing when you experience a conversion of life as a way of life? You’re internalizing an experience of faith. You’re making it your own, you’re allowing it to shape who you are as a person.”

Other speakers included students from SVC, Saint Francis, Duquesne, and Carnegie Mellon Universities. These students presented their academic essays, literary presentations, various creative art projects, and poster presentations. Theology and English major Sarah Morgan Burger presented her paper “The Lord Confused the Language of the Whole World,” which discussed how the Judeo-Christian tradition affected human language.

In between these student presentations was a round-table discussion headlined by Dr. Melinda Farrington, Fr. Shawn Anderson, and Dr. Jerome Foss.

Overall, this year’s Examined Life Conference was a success thanks to the students and academics, not just from SVC but also from the visiting schools.

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