

Saint Vincent College to House the Spotted Lanternfly Invasion Archive

By Erin Brody, News Editor



Logo of the Spotted Lanternfly Invasion Archive, hand drawn by SVC biology professor Dr. Michelle Duennes. (SOURCE: Duennes)

Do you hear that? That sound buzzing in the air? And what was that red and brown thing jumping in between the plants? Could it be? It is... The spotted lanternfly invasion has officially made its way to the Saint Vincent College (SVC) campus.

In recent months, the spotted lanternflies have gained popularity on social media, particularly among those living in the eastern United States. As the invasion slowly travels to the Midwest and West, more people are stomping their way through the outdoors as a means to limit the spread of the species. While the invasion is still in the early stages, spotted lanternflies have been around since 2014 when they were first spotted in Berks County, PA, likely making their

way here through transportation along waterways.

Ever since the spotted lanternflies came into the Pittsburgh area, many rumors about their destructive nature and their purpose have been spread throughout the region. In response, Assistant Professor of Biology and entomologist, Dr. Michelle Duennes, established the Spotted Lanternfly Invasion Archive to better understand and document the historical invasion of these insects.

The Invasion Archive came about when former student Clare Mulcahy (c' 2023) joined Duennes' senior research course. During this time, Mulcahy and Dr. Duennes thought *Continued on page 2*

Clubs claim community in involvement fair

By Alwyn Jimmy, Part Time Writer

On Wednesday, Sep. 6, from 11:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m, students bustled through the involvement fair of Saint Vincent College (SVC), drawn in by a host of club-run tables in Melvin Platz. It's the first real annual opportunity for students, especially freshmen, to get to know what kind of clubs and organizations are available on campus. There were a variety of clubs, ranging from equestrian to chemistry, and organizations such as VALT and Activities Programming Board (APB).

One of such clubs, drawing in crowds with dual TVs and gaming equipment at their table was the SVC E-Sports and Gaming Club. Chris Hopstetter, junior cybersecurity major and club president, helped run the table with fellow members.

"It's all about community," Hopstetter said regarding the objective of the club, which was founded in the fall of 2022.

Andrew Joyce, sophomore physics major and club vice-president, explained that there were different divisions of the club: casual gaming, competitive gaming and media.

The club will be holding on campus events once a month, which will include Mario-Kart and Super-Smash Bros tournaments. According to Hopstetter and Joyce, a primary goal is to get the club's competitive side up and running.

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NEWS

Dr. Michelle Duennes Turns a Senior Project into a Huge Research Initiative

up ideas of insects that would be easy to obtain on the Saint Vincent campus.

“I had been reading about spotted lanternflies, and I knew they were on their way here and already in Pittsburgh,” said Duennes. “But the time that Clare and I had to collect samples was limited.”

The two decided to make the project into a citizen science project, meaning anyone who wanted to participate could collect and send samples to Mulcahy and Duennes. Upon seeing the spotted lantern flies, many were curious how they could prevent the spreading of the species, and Mulcahy’s project gave them the chance to do just that. An estimated 23 people collected over 100 samples for the project in the fall of 2022, and interest is still high.

“Clare’s project morphed from finding a species for her to study into something I might continue after she graduates,” said Duennes. “Her project went really well, and I thought, ‘Let’s turn this into a long-term monitoring project.’”

The long-term project became the Spotted Lanternfly Invasion Archive. Today, the Archive is still in the works through sample collection, which will play a huge role in the finished product. According to Duennes Lab — a website that features all the research projects in SVC’s Biology Department — the college will house all the collected samples for scientists to study DNA and how a spotted lanternfly’s body has changed throughout the years.

“It’s kind of like a historical archive but with dead bugs instead of files,” said Duennes.

The best part about this project is that anyone can send in samples to help in research. The Spotted Lanternfly Invasion Archive will feature yearly samples from Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties, and while the species has been around for over a year. Duennes emphasized the importance of sending in samples.

“Anybody who has just a few [spotted lanternflies] in their yard can help. We can literally catalog them at the very beginning of the invasion of Westmoreland County,” said Duennes. “We want to build this preserved repository of insects that represents their invasion with the ultimate goal of using these insects decades from now to see how they’ve adapted and evolved over time in this new habitat.”

If you’re interested in learning more about the Spotted Lanternfly Invasion Archive or sending in samples, to go <https://maduennes.wordpress.com/spotted-lanternfly/>. However, if you do not plan on participating, Dr. Duennes advises to kill any spotted lanternflies you may see and suggests using this trap that Penn State University created: <https://extension.psu.edu/how-to-build-a-spotted-lanternfly-circle-trap>.



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Club executives emphasize upcoming events

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STUDENTS ENJOY THE E-SPORTS AND GAMING CLUB DISPLAY." (SOURCE: JIMMY)

As a testament to this, on Friday, Sep. 8, the club made history as SVC made its first ever appearance in competitive e-sports.

Joyce made clear that comradery and building new friendships was at the core of the club. "The biggest payoff is seeing our guys get chance to do what they want to do," he said.

With aspirations to involve other clubs, plans for regular livestreaming, and a range of upcoming events, the SVC e-sports and gaming club is aiming for a big year. Another club on campus making its second-year debut is the Rock Band Club. Dylan Slobodnik, senior history education major and club vice-president, kept the purpose of the club simple. "It's all about creating live music on campus," Slobodnik said.

"[The goal is to] make a space for musicians to hang out and play music they're passionate about."

Slobodnik was clear on why he joined this club and what he hoped to achieve. "Saint Vincent used to be known for its music scene... I jumped on the idea, because music is such an essential part of college. [I thought] if I could be a part of that it would make the whole experience worth it," Slobodnik said.

He is looking forward to many future events, especially a music festival the club is planning this year.

Jacob Devlin, junior finance major, who is both a member of the club and a drummer of two bands, elaborated on Slobodnik's desire and need for a rock band. "It was something I felt was needed as a lot of bigger colleges have a music scene.

ARTS & CULTURE

Impressionist Legacies

By Elizabeth Van Pilsum, Arts and Culture Editor



THE VEROSTKO CENTER OF THE ARTS RECENTLY OPENED A NEW EXHIBITION FEATURING IMPRESSIONIST AND SUBSEQUENT MODERN PAINTINGS. (SOURCE: VAN PILSUM)

On Sep. 7, the Verostko Center of the Arts opened an exhibition on Impressionism and the following modernist styles. This exhibition is called Impressionist Legacies: The Michael and Aimee Rusinko Kakos Collection. The exhibition includes 88 donated works and will be open to the public until Nov. 17.

The paintings were donated by Michael and Aimee Rusinko Kakos, long-term supporters of the arts, from their personal collection. Alongside the collection, the couple provided a one-million-dollar endowment to support conserva-

tion and interpretation. They chose to donate to Saint Vincent College (SVC) for many reasons, one being that the art displayed in the Verostko Center provides accessible enrichment to the lives of students and others in the area.

“The college’s possession of these works affords classes and researchers easy access to this pivotal period in art,” said Andrew Julo, director of the Verostko Center of the Arts.

These paintings expand the college’s collection of art to include impressionism and the beginnings of early European modernism.

Themes included in the art vary greatly, including agrarian idylls, the everyday impact of modernization, and visions of the world post World War II. The artists in the collection are widely known in their own communities but less recognizable to people outside those groups. Julo explained that the frequent omission of these painters from the art historical surveys could have happened for many reasons.

“Some [of the artists] experienced critical acclaim during their lifetimes, while others struggled

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THE NEW EXHIBITION CONSISTS OF 88 DONATED PAINTINGS FROM MICHAEL AND AIMEE RUSINKO KAKOS'S PERSONAL COLLECTION. (SOURCE: VAN PILSUM)

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to make ends meet,” said Julo. “Many women artists were discouraged from becoming artists and did not receive the same critical analysis afforded to their male counterparts. Jewish artists in the collection faced antisemitic resistance to their work. The history of art is constantly being reconsidered to include a more robust picture of previous creative output.”

Aside from the Carnegie Museum of Art, SVC is the only institution in southwest Pennsylvania that has obtained this large amount of art from this specific time period. The process of assembling the exhibition took years.

“Identifying scholarship on the works included in the Rusinko Kakos Collection started in earnest in 2021,” said Julo. “Select paintings were taken to a conservator while others were reframed. Artwork previously installed at the Verostko Center was all deinstalled.”

To prepare for the exhibition’s opening, the walls had to be repainted. Additionally, labels, promotional materials, and wall vinyls had to be designed, printed, and arranged. Julo credited the Center’s work study students, Catherine Van Haute, sophomore studio art and theology double major and Sophie Daugherty, junior art education major, for aiding this process.

“This exhibition proved to be an exciting challenge for us,” said Julo. “I hope our visitors will get a sense of the goals of these artists when they took their canvases outside and recorded the changing world around them.”

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SPORTS

BEARCATS SWING STRONG

Women's tennis opens season with series of victories

By Jacob Rzempoluch, *Sports Editors*



HEAD COACH BRIAN NIEMIEC HAS BEEN COACHING AT SAINT VINCENT SINCE 2017. (SOURCE: JULIE WATKINS)

The tennis courts at Saint Vincent overlook the campus with a sweeping view of the mountains beyond Latrobe while simultaneously remaining tucked away from the traffic of campus. This unique location, between the Saint Vincent Cemetery, Gerald Hall, and the Sis & Herman Dupre Science Pavilion, has been the training grounds for an impressive start to the season for the women's tennis team. Through three games, the Bearcats have recorded decisive victories against the Penn State-Altoona Lions, Carlow Celtics, and Mount Aloysius Mounties.

Last season, SVC finished the season with a 10-9 record, good for sixth in the conference. With eight players returning from last season, the Bearcats hope to improve on their previous results.

We're looking forward to a successful year, hoping to beat teams like Grove City and [Washington & Jefferson] - some of our close opponents in the PAC," sophomore liberal arts major Carolina Walters said.

Walters was an outstanding addition to the Bearcats during her freshman year. Her singles record of 15-3 and doubles record of 14-4 led the squad and earned her Newcom-

er of the Year honors, on top of being named Rookie of the Week twice and first team singles and doubles.

When asked about how she would continue her success on the court, Walters said she needed to stay focused and continue playing consistently.

"There are definitely some tougher opponents in the PAC, and in those matches I'll need to work harder to stay calm and keep fighting for every ball."

SVC faces a tough slate of PAC teams this season, but the Bearcats bring a lot of talent.

Four Bearcats were named to the preseason Players to Watch list; junior biology major Lydia Lieb, junior accounting major Abby Donnelly, and sophomore nursing major Emily Pierce. They join Walters to lead the preseason fifth place squad. Lieb especially has stood out this season, earning PAC Player of the week for her five wins during the Bearcats' undefeated streak.

"There's always a challenge at the beginning of the season of learning where everyone's strengths and weaknesses are and how we can best succeed as a team," Walters explained. So far, the Bearcats have certainly been up to the challenge.

Team Standings

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Team	W	L	T	Streak
Westminster	4	0	0	W4
Saint Vincent	3	1	0	W3
W&J	2	1	1	T1
Grove City	2	2	0	L1
Waynesburg	2	2	0	L1
Chatham	1	2	1	W1
Geneva	1	2	1	L2
Bethany	0	1	2	T1
Allegheny	1	3	0	L1
Franciscan	1	3	0	L3
Thiel	1	3	0	L1

SCHEDULE: WESTMINSTER 9/19 3 PM, @W&J 9/23 1 PM, @WAYNESBURG 9/27 8 PM

MEN'S SOCCER

Team	W	L	T	Streak
Waynesburg	3	0	0	W4
Franciscan	4	3	0	W3
Geneva	2	2	1	T1
Saint Vincent	2	2	0	L1
W&J	1	1	1	L1
Bethany	2	3	0	W1
Westminster	0	1	3	L2
Thiel	1	3	1	T1
Grove City	0	2	2	L1
Gratham	1	4	0	L3
Allegheny	0	3	0	L1

SCHEDULE: WESTMINSTER 9/20 4:30 PM, @W&J 9/23 3 PM, WAYNESBURG 9/27 6 PM

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Team	W	L	Streak
Geneva	2	1	W1
Grove City	2	1	W2
Saint Vincent	3	0	W3
Franciscan	1	1	L1
W&J	1	1	L1
Westminster	1	1	L1
Allegheny	0	1	L1
Waynesburg	0	2	T2
Thiel	0	3	L3

SCHEDULE: @THIEL 9/18 4 PM, GENEVA 9/22 4 PM, @WAYNESBURG 9/25 4 PM

FOOTBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
Carnegie M.	2	0	W2
Grove City	2	0	W2
W&J	2	0	W2
Case Western	1	9	W1
Allegheny	1	1	L1
Geneva	1	1	W1
Westminster	1	1	W1
Bethany	0	1	L1
Saint Vincent	0	2	L2
Thiel	0	2	L2
Waynesburg	0	2	L2

SCHEDULE: @GENEVA 9/30 7 PM, CASE WESTERN 10/7 1 PM, @WAYNESBURG 10/14 1 PM

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
Carnegie M.	2	0	W2
Grove City	2	0	W2
W&J	2	0	W2
Case Western	1	9	W1
Allegheny	1	1	L1
Geneva	1	1	W1
Westminster	1	1	W1
Bethany	0	1	L1
Saint Vincent	0	2	L2
Thiel	0	2	L2
Waynesburg	0	2	L2

SCHEDULE: @FRANCISCAN 9/19 7 PM, @MOUNT ALOYSIUS 9/23 1 PM, PITT-GREENSBURG 9/23 3 PM

Men's Cross Country

Schedule: @Lock Haven Invitational 9/23 10 AM, @Thiel 9/29 5 PM, Lehigh 9/30

Results: 3rd at Saint Francis, 2nd at Bethany

Women's Cross Country

Schedule: @Lock Haven Invitational 9/23 11 AM, @Thiel 9/29 5:45 PM, @Rowan 10/14

Results: 3rd at Saint Francis, 1st at Bethany

*CORRECT AS OF 9/12/22

A Letter from the Editor

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

I was stumped on how to begin this letter. On where to begin. I looked back on the letters of the three Editor-in-Chiefs before me, and from each of them, I noticed a progression. From each of them, I noticed an acknowledgement of change, of resilience, and of growth.

And now, as I write this, we're in the third week of another new year. I want to say this is a normal year at Saint Vincent College. There are no masks, no social distance enforcements, no campus wide COVID lockdowns. Everyone is visiting dorms, gathering in communion at the caf, shack, Carey Center, and student chapel. Club and intramural sports are taking off in full force.

But what I also noticed in the previous editor letters was reflection on times of normalcy. The problem is, I don't know what a normal year at SVC looks like. I come from the high school class of 2020, like many of my fellow seniors, the now class of 2024. Our world was upended in March of 2020. Many of us didn't get a final graduation party, a last dance at prom, or a chance to walk the stage in a crowded auditorium. By the time summer came, we likely didn't expect to be standing on a college campus in-person.

I could spend the rest of this letter talking about the same things the class of 2024 lost, the pandemic, and fears of the ongoing war in Europe. But I think many seniors—and countless students and staff as well—will agree with me when I say that I'm tired of doing that. I'm tired of mourning empty auditoriums during graduation, of home lockdowns, of lost opportunities. I'm tired of fixating on the trauma of the pandemic and mourning the hand that society has been dealt since 2020. I've had enough of sitting and thinking about what ifs and what could've beens.

Saint Vincent community members, I have advice for all of you, regardless of if you are a freshman, a tenured professor of 20 years, a well distinguished alumni, or a parent of a student. Focus on what you do now. Focus on what you can change now with the power you have now. You cannot change the past and you cannot predict the future. No one on this campus has the nuclear launch codes, magic levers that control the economy, or a button that stops pandemics. No one reading this can say for sure how much time they have left, or how things would've been had they taken a missed opportunity. But what you do know for sure is what you can change, right now, in this moment. The little things you do now amount to big things for your life, and for those around you. You don't know what tomorrow is like. So love thy neighbor as yourself.

And if the past four years have taught me anything, it is that there is no normal year of anything, let alone a normal year of attending SVC. There is no normal year of life. If there were, we would fail to see how extraordinary and worth living life is. If the stories in The Review accomplish nothing else this year, I hope it will at least reflect this view of life.

This is all to say, I wish you all a happy fall semester, and a subsequent spring semester to come! I'm excited to see what this new year will bring and what each of you will do today. Right now.

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