

## Esports club launches SVC into competitive gaming

By: Jacob Rzempoluch, Sports Editor



**Drew Joyce**  
SVC Skyhawk

**Chris Hopstetter**  
SVC VetteHoppy

Drew Joyce and Chris Hopstetter provide commentary during the SVCRL-PI Twitch livestream. (SOURCE: @svcesports YouTube)

For as long as video games have existed, people have competed to see who the best was. The first video game, Tennis for Two, was made so that two players could compete. As computers become more sophisticated, the range and quality of video games available rapidly increased. The introduction of multiplayer online games allowed players to compete against people from around the world without leaving their home. Video games have become a cultural mainstay, but Saint Vincent College (SVC) did not have any sort of gaming club until last year. In the fall of 2022, the SVC Esports and Gaming was founded by a group of students including current president Chris Hopstetter, junior cybersecurity major.

"I wanted to build a place for people to come together to play video games," Hopstetter said. "I love playing video games. I'm a

cybersecurity major, so I love all things computers." Initially, the club was just a place to discuss and casually play video games. The idea of forming competitive gaming teams quickly arose during club event planning discussions.

"It was always a thought in the beginning, but we didn't have the number of people we needed to do it," said Hopstetter. Rocket League would become the first game the club sponsored an Esports team in. Since its release in 2015, Rocket League rapidly became a popular choice for competitive gamers. The game is essentially soccer with a twist: players control rocket-powered cars instead of human athletes. Games range from one-on-one to four-on-four and take place in an arena with walls that can be driven on.

*Continued on page 2*

## Economics affected education

By: Sean Callahan, Editor-in-Chief

What truly affects how well students perform in education? Is it a reduced class size or a different school type? Or is it what gender they study with? Is affirmative action helpful? Does school type or competition among schools help enhance academic performance? These were only some of many questions addressed by one of the McKenna's school's latest speakers.

On Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fred Rogers Center, Dr. Dennis Epple, the Thomas Lord University Professor of Economics at Carnegie Mellon University, gave a talk in which he evaluated different education topics and research regarding school choice and effectiveness. Epple conducts research focused on public economics, with an emphasis on federalism, the economics of education, and urban economics.

Epple began his talk by briefly summarizing various issues and questions of concern in education. Most of his talk and the research he discussed concerned gender, school choice, school test scores, income inequality, and educational vouchers to education.

One prominent topic he discussed was educational vouchers. He affirmed that, according to research, vouchers increase competition between private and public schools, and that parents choose neighborhood based on "perceived school quality". He also emphasized that income stratification exists across school districts and neighborhoods, using his own research as an example.

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# SPORTS

## Three schools compete in Rocket League tournament

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Cars are launched away from the goal after scoring. (SOURCE: Howard Community College)



University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg nears an eighth goal in a blow-out win the take the SVCRLPI title (SOURCE: @svcesports YouTube)

SVC competes in the National Esports Collegiate Conference (NECC). The Rocket League teams compete in the Navigators championship, with the varsity SVC Gold team competing in the Mideast Division A while the junior varsity SVC Emerald team competes in the Great Lakes Division B. Regular season matches use a best of five format, with the first team to win three games taking the match victory. In their first season, the Gold team finished with a 4-3 record and a championship tournament berth before a first round exit. The Emerald team's record was 1-5.

After the Esports team was established, the club discussed hosting a Rocket League tournament. Officers emailed every Rocket League program in the state and invited them to compete in the first-ever Saint Vincent College Rocket League Pennsylvania Invitational. The Esports and Gaming Club partnered with Gilbert & Sullivan Club, History Club, and STEM Club to organize the ambitious event and to set up a watch party in the Carey Center on campus. The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg (UPG) also played a key role in the event's success;

UPG allowed the club to use their Esports lab for SVC's players as well as the commentary livestream, which was streamed on the club's Twitch channel.

Saint Vincent's team for the Nov. 18 tournament consisted of Justin Bruno, senior computer science major; Ronan Gaab, sophomore marketing major; Noah Henry, freshman business

major; and Brandyn Brock, senior mechanical engineering major. UPG had two teams competing and the Pennsylvania College of Technology (PCT) also took part in the tournament. Hopstetter and Andrew Joyce, sophomore physics major, provided commentary for each game and interviewed teams in between matches.

The tournament consisted of two rounds. First a round-robin series allowed each team to face the other three teams. Then the three teams with the best records continued to the championship bracket. Saint Vincent Gold unfortunately lost all matches; however, this allowed Brock to join the commentary booth for some of the finals bracket. PTC and UPG-1 advanced to the championship match, with UPG-1 coming out on top after a 4-2 series. The tournament stream was uploaded to the club's YouTube channel, @svcesports, and can still be viewed.

Overall, the participating teams and the Esports club viewed the tournament as a success. The club plans to expand into other Esports, with two Overwatch 2 teams and a Valorant team forming for the spring semester. Fortnite and Rainbow Six Siege may also soon be sponsored by the club. Esports is a young field of competition and is still growing in popularity and legitimacy. The Esports and Gaming Club hopes to establish teams that encourage student engagement on campus while being competitive.

# Team Standings

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
Bethany	5	2	W3
Chatham	3	2	W2
Grove City	3	2	W2
Westminster	3	2	W2
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	3	3	W1
W&J	3	1	L1
Allegheny	1	5	L2
Franciscan	3	3	L1
Geneva	1	3	L2
Waynesburg	0	5	L5
Thiel	0	4	L4

SCHEDULE: GROVE CITY 12/6 5:30 PM, GENEVA 12/9 4 PM, @ BETHANY, 12/16 1 PM

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	4	0	W5
Geneva	5	1	L1
Waynesburg	3	2	L1
Allegheny	2	4	W2
W&J	2	4	L2
Grove City	4	2	L2
Chatham	3	3	W1
Franciscan	2	3	W1
Westminster	2	3	W1
Bethany	2	5	L3
Thiel	2	5	L2

SCHEDULE: PENN STATE FAYETTE 12/4 7 PM, GROVE CITY 12/6 7:30 PM, GENEVA 12/9 6 PM

## WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Team	W	L	Streak
Franciscan	5	0	W5
Grove City	2	0	W2
Chatham	1	3	L2
Westminster	1	3	L1
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	3	2	L1
Allegheny	1	6	L5
Bethany	1	5	L4
W&J	0	5	L5

SCHEDULE: @CHATHAM 1/19 5 PM, BETHANY 1/20 1 PM, FRANCISCAN 1/20 1 PM

## MEN'S SWIMMING

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	2	0	W2
Chatham	1	3	L2
Westminster	1	3	L1
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	1	4	L3
W&J	1	4	L3
Bethany	0	4	L4
Allegheny	0	6	L6

SCHEDULE: @CHATHAM 1/19 5 PM, BETHANY 1/20 1 PM, WESTMINSTER 1/27 1 PM

## MEN'S WRESTLING

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	1	1	L1
Thiel	0	0	
<b>Saint Vincent</b>	0	1	L1
Waynesburg	0	3	L3

SCHEDULE: @WHEELING 12/8 7 PM, @WARTBURG 12/17, WAYNESBURG 1/11 7 PM

\*Correct as of 11/28/23

## NEWS

## Visiting professor delves into education research

*continued from page 1*

Dr. Dennis Epple spoke as one of the final CPET speakers of the fall semester on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

"I've done a substantial amount of research using the Boston Metropolitan area. School districts and municipal boundaries are coterminous. Whereas in many places, such as New Jersey, municipal boundaries cross."

He emphasized the "hierarchy of income" that he observed in Boston, which he asserts has remained consistent into the twenty-first century.

Epple also discussed research concerning gender as it relates to academic performance.

"[According to research,] girls perform better in all girls' schools. On the other hand, boys do better in mixed-gender classes than girls do," Epple said.

Furthermore, Epple cited the tremendous percentage increase in women obtaining bachelor's degrees. Whereas 19.2 percent of women had a college degree in 1975 to 1979, compared to men's 24.6 percent, this skyrocketed to 46.9 percent compared to men's 39.3 percent from 2015 to 2018.

In terms of race, Epple noted a study that showed a large decrease in high school dropout rates. The graph showed the largest decrease was for black men and women.

"The African American dropout rate has dropped more quickly. When you get to 2021, those rates have dropped to five percent, [from 25 and 30 percent for African American men and women respectively.]"

Epple concluded his lecture with discussion of two approaches to evaluating education research, and how they are applied.

The first approach discussed was regression discontinuity. Epple says this is widely used in education research because "cutoff scores are widely used for admission to educational programs". This approach is used to obtain unbiased estimates of "education-related interventions". Epple provided an example of a study concerning a flagship university with an SAT cutoff for university students. By using regression discontinuity, the researcher compared the outcomes of students who barely got into the university and those who fell short on a

graph, and discovered that all were "nearly identical in ability but [had] very different opportunities." A similar example examining students of the same university, found that those above the SAT cutoff point "earned, on average, 9.5 percent more than those just below the cutoff."

The second approach discussed was random assignment, which, according to Epple, a method of "natural experiments" due to appearing like a lottery. He used the example of the Washington D.C Voucher Experiment, which occurred following Congress' passage of the District of Columbia School Choice Incentive Act in 2004. The experiment, Epple explained, was implemented by Congress to evaluate the impacts of the program, which provided the first federally funded private school voucher program in the United States. Applicants to private schools were awarded scholarships by lottery (otherwise known as random assignment). The results showed no statistically significant change in student test scores, but they did show a statistically significant increase in high school graduation rates.

The final study Epple discussed in relation to random assignment considered teacher absenteeism. In a 2004 study in India, three unannounced visits were made to 3700 randomly selected schools throughout the country. It was found that the teacher absence rate was 35 percent on average. To mitigate this, in random schools across the country, students were given special cameras by chosen teachers to document when their teachers were present or absent every day. Consistent attendance would be rewarded with extra pay for the teacher. The experiment reduced teacher absenteeism from 35 percent to 14 percent, which Epple called a "creative, relatively inexpensive, and very effective intervention."

Unrelated to the study, Epple also asserted that "the Constitution of India mandates affirmative action for the two most disadvantaged groups, formerly known as untouchables", and that the effects were positive. This is in stark contrast, he notes, to the United States, which had a supreme court ruling against affirmative action in college admissions.

The talk ended with several questions from faculty and students. These included an inquiry on Epple's opinion of the validity of the vouchers and whether the results of the studies could be replicated in other countries aside from India and the United States.



# Spotlight on Caitlin Michael

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



Professor Caitlin Michael, Instructor of Marketing.  
(SOURCE: SVC INSTAGRAM)

Beginning her educational journey at Saint Vincent College (SVC) in 2013, Caitlin Michael double majored in marketing and management with a minor in operational excellence and graduated in 2017. After graduating from SVC, Michael attended St. Francis University, where she earned a degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing and a master’s degree in education and leadership. Now, Michael attends West Virginia University, where she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Marketing and is set to graduate at the end of the current semester.

Michael has since returned to SVC as a marketing instructor and will soon be an assistant professor of marketing upon completing her Ph.D.

“SVC was the only place that I applied for my undergrad. I visited the campus in the fall of my senior year of high school, and I absolutely loved it here from the moment I set foot on campus,” Michael said. “I was very eager to come here, learn about everything and everyone and be a part of the community, and none of that has changed. The second I graduated, my thoughts became, ‘Well, how do I come back?’”

Michael said that she decided she wanted to be a professor because she loves research and teaching.

“I love the ability to help future marketers and shape the future leaders who will run the business world in the coming years. I want to be able to share my findings with them so we can make the world a more inclusive and happier place. I strongly believe that marketing can be used for good, and my research is about how we can make the world a better place.”

During her time at SVC, Michael helped found the Student Reading Club and was involved with the Women in Business and the Operational Excellence clubs. Outside of work and education, Michael cares for a “zoo of rescue animals,” including four dogs, five cats, a Ball Python, a Bearded Dragon, and seven Crested Geckos. When not making dinner for her animals (or cleaning up after them!), Michael volunteers at animal shelters, attends concerts in the Pittsburgh area, and binge-watches Netflix.

Moreover, Michael loved bingo and all of the events held by the Activities Programming Board, as well as the community aspects. As an instructor returning to SVC, she is thrilled by several of the changes that have

occurred, such as the new library, the different setup of The Shack, and the GET app for ordering food—something Michael says she would have loved as an undergraduate student.

“But it’s also very comforting that many things have remained unchanged. There are still the same smiling faces of staff and faculty members eager to help and support everyone in the community,” Michael said. “The FMO workers that I ate lunch with as a student in the Wimmer lobby are still here, and now I get to greet them in the morning in the elevator. It’s been wonderful that the community is still the same, but we have more fun technological and architectural advancements.”

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

# Test Your Knowledge

By: John Syms, Part Time Writer



Trophies and medals were awarded upon conclusion of the club tournament. (Source: Jonah Vaglia)

Trivia Club is letting students on campus compete against one another in a game of Jeopardy to earn prizes. Undergraduates form teams and test their knowledge against opponents to win the competition.

Jonah Vaglia, senior biology major, is the president of the club and usually hosts the event every year either in Prep or Anselm Hall.

Vaglia explained that Trivia Club is a group of students on campus who come together and appreciate each other's knowledge and share a love of new information. They meet every Thursday for club meetings. Most meetings, Vaglia said, have five to ten members, who come to relax and answer trivia questions. They used an online buzzer system to conduct both practices and tournaments, until last semester, when they purchased a traditional lockout buzzer system with SGA funds.

"One of the best parts of trivia club is the fact that every student has their own interests of bringing their information to an area that can be appreciated," Vaglia said.

This semester's trivia club tournament has six teams of five students. The club has been hosting tournaments for the last two years, every

semester.

Vaglia said that he started the club because he had started Quiz-Bowl in high school, and already had an interest in trivia by then.

"I came to SVC, understanding that there was a trivia club already on campus according to what my tour guide told me. I found out that unfortunately was not true, so I had to start a trivia club my sophomore year."

The first tournament of the school year took place in Anselm Hall 219 on Nov. 16, and one team was eliminated in the set of matches.

As of Nov. 28, according to Jonah, a winner was estimated to have been decided by Nov. 30. The top three teams will each receive a trophy and the first-place team will receive medals.

"I love Trivia Club and I love doing it," said Vaglia. "I like when we have a nice group of people with a diverse collection of niche academic interests."

He hopes that trivia club is still around at SVC after he graduates in the spring of 2024. Jonah hopes that there will be more people to take part in the organization in the future.

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

# THE EXAMINED LIFE

## An Undergraduate Conference in the Liberal Arts

— listening with the ear of the heart —

Friday and Saturday,  
March 22 & 23, 2024

Saint Vincent College  
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Parker,  
Ryan Endowed Chair for Newman Studies, Duquesne University

Submission Deadline: January 1, 2024: [examinedlifeSVC@gmail.com](mailto:examinedlifeSVC@gmail.com)

"Listen carefully...and incline the ear of your heart," says Saint Benedict in his Rule. The monastic order that this saint founded places listening at the heart of its charism, calling us to listen to God, to one another, and especially to those whose voices are most often unheard. In our current age of quick soundbites and social media, listening is arguably becoming harder to do – and it is feeding much of our civil division and decline in civil discourse. Good listening is necessary to overcome the differences that divide us. "Attention is the rarest and purist form of generosity," said French philosopher Simone Weil, who viewed the high school geometry classes she taught as opportunities to cultivate the habit of attention in her students. This conference aims to explore the theme of listening across disciplines, from the humanities and social sciences to the natural sciences and creative arts.

Presentations may include the following:

- **Academic essay presentations** tailored to 15-20 minutes (7-10 pages double-spaced)
  - Submit a 250-500-word abstract describing the purview of the work and its argument or focus. The complete work must be submitted by **March 1, 2024**.
- **Literary presentations**, including short stories and poetry. **Creative arts**, including music, paintings or drawings, sculpture, photography, etc.
  - Submit some representation of the piece that you would like to have considered.
- **Poster presentations** or other visual representations of research.
  - For poster presentations, submit an image or narrative description of the work.

Please submit a proposal to [examinedlifeSVC@gmail.com](mailto:examinedlifeSVC@gmail.com) by **January 1, 2024**.

The conference is free and open to the public. Faculty, mentors, advisors, and family members are welcome to attend. For more information, visit our website: [examinedlifeconference.wordpress.com](http://examinedlifeconference.wordpress.com). Or, contact Dr. Eric Mohr ([eric.mohr@stvincent.edu](mailto:eric.mohr@stvincent.edu)) or Dr. Jeannine Pitas ([jeannine.pitas@stvincent.edu](mailto:jeannine.pitas@stvincent.edu)).

# Seeking order in the Mock Trial Court

By: Brianna Saylor, News Editor



Photo of SVC Mock Trial Team at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY. (SOURCE: SVC MCKENNA SCHOOL INSTAGRAM)

The SVC Mock Trial Team is having yet another incredibly successful season! They traveled to St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY, on Nov. 4, where they competed for two days against twelve teams across the country.

Mock trial is an extracurricular activity available to students, where they take on roles of attorneys or witnesses and compete in a ‘fake’ trial that simulates all the actual rules and regulations of a real courtroom. Schools from across the country are registered to compete through the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA), which serves as the governing body for intercollegiate mock trial competitions. Through engaging in trial simulations in competition with teams from other institutions, students develop critical thinking and public speaking skills and knowledge of legal practices and procedures. AMTA sponsors regional and national competitions and provides case materials for academic use.

This year’s case focuses on the State of Midlands v. B.F. De la Porta & Poe Cameron. The case concerns four masked individuals who make it into a vault during the annual charity gala for Sohi Children’s Hospital and steal some of the items up for auction. During the heist, one of the armed robbers and Emory Sands, a Miller Tower security officer, are severely wounded. Two of the robbers flee via a helicopter on the rooftop, and two escape into the streets of Santa Ivo City. After an extensive investigation on the local and federal level, Poe Cameron is arrested as one of the four suspected armed robbers, and local billionaire Berkley De la Porta is arrested for funding the criminal operation.

SVC came away with three victories—Rebekah Bollman, junior criminology major, and Alicia Boretti, sophomore political science major, earned top attorney awards and Lucy Brayton, freshman politics major, earned a top witness award. These achievements placed them within the top 10 percent in their respective categories.

Delaney Fox, senior political science major and co-practice coordinator for the Mock Trial Team, commented on the team’s progress and success this semester, “With case changes coming out soon, we’ll have to revise a few things, but we have a strong team that works really well together and has been working hard on perfecting their roles, so I know we are going to do great heading into the next competition.”

Fox reflected on her time on the mock trial team and how it was truly personal for her.

“I competed in mock trials in high school for four years and now at Saint Vincent for three. [R]eflecting now as a senior who is applying to law school, I can say that high school mock trial was really the thing that made me realize that I wanted to go into law in the first place. The SVC mock trial team propelled that dream into a reality, and even more so now that I have

had the opportunity to take on a leadership role on the team, it’s been an incredibly rewarding and meaningful experience.”

The Saint Vincent Mock Trial Team is made up of nine students: Delaney Fox, senior political science major; Bollman; Boretti; Brayton; Matthew Thomas, sophomore political science major, Adrian Lee, sophomore criminology major; Allie Gray, junior psychology major; Lily Murphy, sophomore politics major; and Brady Johnson, freshman business major. They are led by coaches Michael Arabia, adjunct professor of business for the McKenna School, and George Miller, adjunct lecturer of business administration for the McKenna School.

They will travel to Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, at the end of January to compete again, now with the new case changes, before heading to Regionals in February, which will be held at Penn State University.

## The Weekly Review Staff Top Ten: Caf Foods

Featuring: Kateri Strub, Copy Editor

1. *Dino Nuggets*
2. *Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup*
3. *Pasta Bar*
4. *Italian Wedding Soup*
5. *Honey-stung Chicken*
6. *Dessert*
7. *Pierogies*
8. *Pizza*
9. *The Grill*
10. *Saturday and Sunday Dinners*



# Check out our website for stories not printed in our paper!

## Culture

Features about art, entertainment and trends



Apr 20

### Visiting Writers Series returns to Saint Vincent

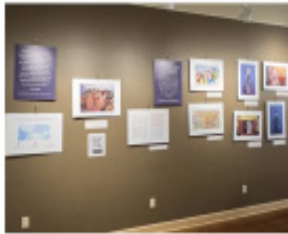
By Delaney Fox, Staff Writer The Visiting Writers Series made its return to Saint Vincent College on Apr. 8 in the Verostko Center for...



Apr 20

### Class of 2022 art majors display work in Verostko Center

By Eva Brady, Staff Writer The Verostko Center for the Arts recently granted the SVC community and visitors with a blue eye display...



Apr 10

### Fred Rogers Scholars collaborate with Latrobe Art Center

By Jacob Remington, Part-Time Staff Writer Fred Rogers, known to millions of Americans as Mister Rogers, began a very special all his...



Mar 17

### Not throwing away their shot: Students surprised and satisfied with Hamilton trip

By Eva Brady, Arts and Culture Editor The Activities Programming Board (APB) planned a trip to Pittsburgh to see Hamilton on March 11...



Mar 11

### Grant paves way to humanities project

By Sara Callahan, Staff Writer A new General opportunity was announced by Public Relations via a press release email on Feb. 9. The...

## Sports

Bearcat sports and those relating to SVC



Apr 20

### Men's lacrosse in strong form

By Luke Mich, Sports Editor The Saint Vincent Bearcats men's lacrosse team has started out the season very strong and, over a month into...



Apr 10

### Wrestling returns to Saint Vincent

By Luke Mich, Sports Editor On Mar. 10, Saint Vincent College and its athletic department announced the return of men's wrestling to the...



Apr 7

### Men's tennis begins season with spring break trip

By Luke Mich, Sports Editor During spring break, what most students enjoyed the week off from school by going home or traveling south for...



Mar 29

### New athletic facility on the way

By David Collins, Part-Time Staff Writer Saint Vincent College has announced plans to open a brand new athletic facility for students...



Mar 24

### Softball opens season strong: Team aiming for championship win

By Luke Mich, Sports Editor Over the past few weeks, the Saint Vincent softball team has been...



# ARTS AND CULTURE

## The Company gets footloose

By: Alwyn Jimmy, Part Time Writer



Footloose was performed by The Company all through the weekend of Nov.17 (SOURCE: THE COMPANY INSTAGRAM)

SVC theatre may have already dipped its toes into iconic shows such as the play *Clue*, and the musical *Grease*, but that does not mean there is not more room in the spotlight for *Footloose*! The show was shown in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) by The Company from Friday, Nov. 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m to Sunday Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. Set in the small town of Bomont, Ren McCormack moves there all the way from the city lights of Chicago only to discover that in Bomont, dancing is illegal. However, Ren will stop at nothing to liberate the town from laws imposed by the Reverend Shaw Moore. With the help of Shaw's daughter, and Ren's newfound friends, there might be a change on the horizon for Bomont.

The PAC's stage came alive with a surge of energy and excitement that reverberated throughout the auditorium. The opening act to the final curtain call, every moment, from Ren's confrontations with Reverend Shaw to the final iconic dance number was a testament to the passion and hard work of the talented performers.

One of these talented performers includes Charles Sullivan, a sophomore student who played Willard Hewitt, a country boy who grows into one of Ren's most trusted friends. Sullivan described the performance as fantastic.

"Each person put in amazing effort and each show was better than the last. My favourite part of the performance was being with my friends on stage," Sullivan said. "I met a lot of new people through *Footloose* and have gotten close with them because of it."

When asked what inspired him to take up acting and singing in the first place, Sullivan explained that he has been active in theatre before college.

"I've been singing all my life and acting since high school, I mainly did it because my friends did. What inspired me to do *Footloose* was the opportunity to meet new people and try singing and acting in a college setting," Sullivan said.

Margaret Sullivan, senior vocal performance major and director of the musical, felt the most challenging part of the musical was directing such a large cast during a difficult semester.

"[I had to figure out] how to corral a cast of more than thirty people for about two months in one of the most stressful semesters I've ever seen. Directing a full musical is much different than directing a cabaret," Sullivan said. "There were so many conflicts I had to work around when it came to scheduling rehearsals and rehearsing exclusively after 9:30 pm on school nights is challenging for everyone."

However, like Charles Sullivan, Margaret Sullivan was ecstatic to see *Footloose* as a final product and loved most of all the execution of the story and musical by the cast.

"Those were the two most important aspects in my mind, and I think they nailed it. Getting all that right is no small feat," Sullivan said. "The musical score of *Footloose* is one of the most intricate and complicated I've ever seen, and this cast pulled it off beautifully."

She said that the cast performance exceeded her expectations, not just in terms of the singing and dancing execution, but also in terms of the acting and the capabilities of the stage crew.

"The story is a heavier one than we're used to doing, but the cast pulled off all the emotional beats wonderfully well, very convincingly," Sullivan said. "And none of it would have been possible without the amazing stage crew and tech people. They helped make the production something even more magical. I don't think I'll ever think of *Footloose* in the same way again, not after seeing this cast perform it so well."

# The Opera Comes to SVC

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



The Opera Workshop performed an opera for the first time at SVC with its version of Cendrillon on Nov. 14.

On Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m., an opera was performed by this semester’s opera workshop class in Luparello Hall. The opera workshop class, taught and directed by Caryn Greco, DMA, visiting assistant professor of voice and coordinator of music, occurs every semester, but this semester is the first time the workshop is performing an opera for the school. Greco chose the opera Cendrillon, a retelling of Cinderella composed by Pauline Viardot and adapted by Seamus Ricci.

Greco selected Cendrillon as the opera for many reasons, one of which being her friend Ricci had recently adapted the opera to have a smaller cast.

“Once I saw that I had six incredible musicians in the class, I knew I had to do this opera,” Greco said. “The other reason being that it is the Year of the Woman at SVC and Cendrillon was written by a woman, about a woman, and it was performed and conducted by seven women.... I mean the girl boss energy in that performance was off the charts!”

“My goal with the class is to cultivate a travelling opera troupe that takes smaller operas into the area schools and introduces young students to the hilarity and amazingness of the art form; I figured starting off with a well-known fairytale sounded perfect,” Greco said.

The makings of an opera workshop first involved Greco selecting an opera, and then auditioning all the students who registered for the class. Greco and Michael Meketa, the workshop’s pianist, cast the roles, and the students were responsible for learning the music outside of class. The cast had a read-through of the script in early September, and then Greco

blocked out the action and figured out the set, props, and costumes.

The plot of the opera follows Cendrillon (played by Anna Doelling, senior biology major), who is made fun of at home by her stepsisters (played by Margaret Sullivan, senior music performance major, and Monica Slattery, sophomore theology and music double major). With the help of a fairy (also played by Sullivan), Cendrillon attends a ball, where she catches the eye of the prince (played by Abigail McGinnis, sophomore vocal performance major). At the ball, there is a recital, featuring two singers (played by Rachel Andreola, senior mathematics major, and Helen Kish, senior engineering and psychology double major). Cendrillon flees the ball but leaves her sparkly shoe behind, which the prince uses to find her and profess his feelings. The opera added elements of humor to the classic story through props, such as colorful tutus instead of ballgowns, and comedic acting.

“Most of the semester is spent getting the music tight and blocking and running the show as much as possible,” Greco said. “I only see the students for a short time each week, so a lot of the music work is done outside of class in the practice room.”

Sullivan was a part of the opera workshop last semester as well as this semester, as it is required for her major. She enjoyed her time in the workshop, although it was stressful at times. “The memorization was more interesting, since it was a whole opera with a story and lines of dialogue rather than just strung together arias and group pieces we’d already been doing during lesson time,” Sullivan said. “But it took more acting while singing operatically, which is something I hadn’t quite done before, especially not something so silly!”

Slattery would recommend doing the opera workshop for the rewarding feeling and because opera provides a basis for singers.

Sullivan described the performance as “effortlessly smooth” and felt it sounded great.

Greco also thinks the performance went really well, and she is proud of the performers’ hard work.

“We had an amazing audience who was incredibly receptive and responsive to the story and the singers really had fun, which is what it is all about!” Greco said. “As musicians, we put so much blood, sweat, and tears into preparing a role and it can be difficult for us to come out of our ‘perfectionist’ ways, but when we have fun and just focus on telling the story, as the six singers who performed the opera did, then it is truly magical”

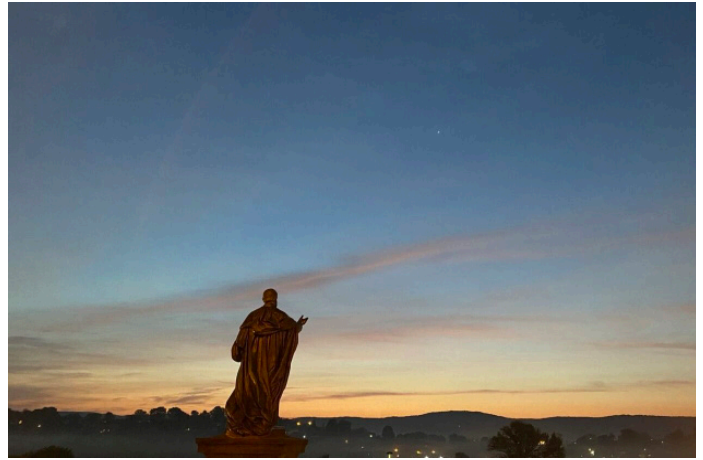
Greco is excited about the future and what students are going to accomplish by performing these operas for the SVC community, and the greater Pittsburgh area community.



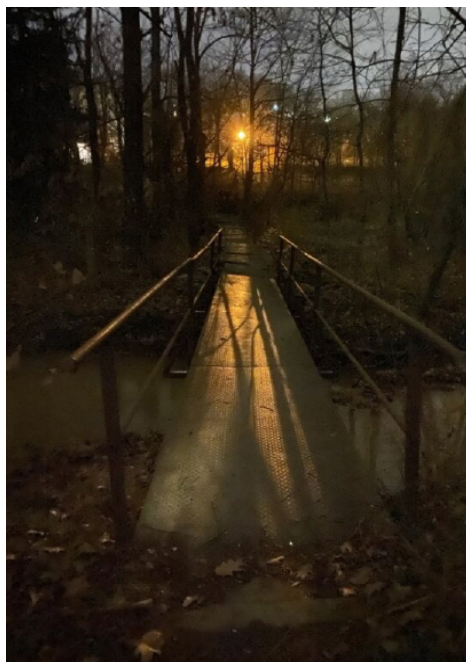
# SVC Fall 2023

By: Brother Xavier O'Mara

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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 cultures, ethnicities, traditions, beliefs and views.