

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

Issue 6

May 23, 2019

St. Augustine High School

Saints Loses Cherished Faculty Members



By Aidan Rickwa ('22)
STAFF WRITER

So many members of the faculty have announced that they will be leaving Saints after this year that it is hard to keep up. In our past issues, we announced the departures of Mr. Weber, Mr. Stephenson, and Mr. Chipp. Still, there are even more members of the Saints community to whom we must say goodbye: Fr. Kirk, our chaplain; Steven Funk, our Augustinian volunteer; and Mrs. Balmin, our staff accountant. Their hard work at Saints has been greatly valued and they will be greatly missed.

Fr. Kirk, the chaplain at Saints, has worked here for 9 years in a variety of positions. Steven Funk works mainly in Campus Ministry, helping students with service hours and service trips. He is also renowned as the people's champion when it comes to basketball. Mrs. Balmin works in the office and is always prepared to greet students and to guide them. Whether students come for candy or help, they always leave satisfied.

“Father Kirk has been a great mentor to me and a great presence to this whole community. From the Christian Director position, to our exchange programs, to our Guatemala trip, he has been essential in implementing so many wonderful programs for our community,” Father Max said. Father Max has had the pleasure of knowing Father Kirk ever since he joined The Order of Saint Augustine six years ago.

“Father Kirk is so awesome and he has been such a wonderful person to see



Among the departing faculty are Fr. Kirk Davis (left), Mrs. Ann Balmin (center), and Steven Funk (right).

Joaquin Torre ('21)

on campus. He's an influential part of the Saints brotherhood, and his religious impact on the Saints community as a whole will be missed when he's gone,” said sophomore Alex Alcalay, who was able to accompany Father Kirk on the World Youth Day and SAVI X trips.

Fr. Kirk has become much more than a friendly face on campus, as he has played an instrumental role in the expansion of our Campus Ministry program. Particularly, Fr. Kirk's role as Chaplain has included involvement with the preparation and performance of Mass, trips with students

including SAVI and other ventures to the Hogar Infantil de la Guardia orphanage, as well as writing a monthly column for *The Augustinian*. Fr. Kirk has also become involved with the religious education here at Saints, often stopping by religion classes to share his extensive spiritual experience and knowledge.

Steven Funk joined the Saints staff this year and has worked out of Campus Ministry as our Augustinian Volunteer. Some of his main jobs are to help with service hours and attend the Saint Vincent de Paul trips on Wednesdays with the sophomores. The

student body has grown fond of Steven, as demonstrated by his standing ovation at the most recent pep rally. The sophomores particularly like Steven due to his comedic personality and his frequent trips to St Vincent de Paul. According to one poll amongst sophomores, 30 out of all 30 individuals polled said Steven Funk is most definitely the greatest of all time. He performed so well in the faculty basketball game that he earned the nickname Steven Splash. Funk will be greatly missed and his replacement will have huge shoes

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Saints Spring Sports See Success



By Manny Butler ('22)
STAFF WRITER

Spring sports have wrapped up, and it has been a great season. The track team earned a league championship, volleyball had a season of firsts, and baseball won two tournaments. Additionally, lacrosse secured the highest playoff seed in program history, the swim team sent 3 swimmers and 3 relay teams to CIFs, and golf won in league match play.

The baseball team finished the regular season with a 17-12-1 record overall, with a 3-8-1 record in the Western League. Junior center fielder Charlie Rhee led the team with a .337 batting average and 33 hits. Junior shortstop Fisher Pyatt led the team in home runs with 3, including a game-winning two-run shot to beat Maranatha High School in Pasadena in the Lions Tournament.

Coach da Luz was pleased with the team's ability to overcome adversity. During the Lions Tournament, the team was without many of their starters due to injury and sickness, but they still won it all with a 4-2 victory over Clairemont, as sophomore Torin Mooney collected the win. The team enjoyed great tournament success, as they also won the

Bill Whittaker Classic.

On the track, the Saints collected a league co-championship as they tied for first place with La Jolla High School and San Diego High School. Freshman sprinter Jalil Tucker achieved three first-place finishes and a second-place finish during the league championships, leading the Saints to their first league title since 2006.

The track team had success in many different events, as Tucker and senior Chris Erpelding performed well in the sprinting events, junior Jalen Gross and sophomore Justice Gross in the distance events, junior Christian Scott in the long jump, and senior Matt Manqueros in the high jump.

The team sent eleven athletes and two relay teams from a variety of events to CIF. “As far as the overall team, this is the first year where we have people that are really doing well in distance, sprinting, and some of our field events,” Coach Yoakum said.

The lacrosse team had a record-setting season as well, with an 11-5 record entering playoffs, securing the number two playoff seed in Division I - the highest in program history. Senior Matthew Beddow led the team with 38 goals, and



Lacrosse player Matthew Beddow runs down the field.

Joaquin Torre ('21)

junior Jack Page put up a whopping 30 assists and 65 points to lead the team.

The Saintsmen beat Cathedral 11-8 and also beat Woodinville High School from Washington 10-7 as Page scored 3 goals and added 2 assists. Junior Evan Staylor also had 3 goals and 1 assist.

On the court, the volleyball team won

their second consecutive league championship, qualified for the Open Division playoffs for the first time, and beat Cathedral in a five-set thriller.

“I would categorize this as a phenomenal season,” Coach Hecht said. There is not much of an argument to make against

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Ask an Expert: Limits to Executive Power?



President Donald Trump signs his first executive orders in the Oval Office in Washington, D.C.

Jonathan Ernst / Reuters



By Ronnie Saenz ('20)
STAFF WRITER

What follows is the first in a series of articles called "Ask an Expert," where we pose difficult questions to some of our faculty members who are well-versed in their respective subject areas. The first question in our series involves the limits of presidential powers.

In recent years, both presidents Obama and Trump have stirred a lot of controversy by issuing numerous executive orders. Some people find this perplexing. Does this mean that presidents can act as monarchs, just passing decrees on a whim? Are there any limits to these orders? Can they be cancelled by the other branches of government, and if so, how? With the upcoming 2020 elections approaching, it's important to understand just how much power the person we will vote for will eventually yield.

Mr. Christopher da Luz teaches civics here at Saints, and we are honored to have him as our first featured expert.

What are the limits of presidential powers, especially with regard to the military?

In the case of a president's control over the military, the War Powers Resolution Act, enacted in 1973 by the 93rd United States Congress, limits the military power of the president without consent from Congress. Because of this federal law, the president can still send troops wherever he wants, but he has thirty days to explain to Congress why he sent those troops. If Congress concludes that troops are at an unnecessary risk, then they can pull them out. With executive orders, the president can change and create laws, but they can still be turned down if the law is deemed outside of his power.

Can the other branches of government veto or otherwise nullify a presidential executive order?

Both the Congress and the Supreme Court can restrict the president's power. Thanks to America's system of checks

and balances, the president does not have complete power over federal law. If a president vetoes a law, Congress can override the veto if they have a 2/3 majority vote, and, if the Supreme Court finds the law to be unconstitutional, they can also reverse it.

Can you provide an example in recent history of a presidential executive order that was overturned?

It is rare that an Executive Order is overturned, but it can be overturned by legislation written by Congress. The President has the right to veto this legislation, in turn Congress has the power to override the veto by a 2/3 majority vote in both houses. It also can be overturned by the Supreme Court if they deem the President has gone above his Constitutional powers.

President Trump had an Executive Order partially knocked down because the Supreme Court ruled that his Executive Order on limiting the Affordable Care Act was Unconstitutional.

How does the president make decisions and what issues does the president usually make decisions about?

The president will usually get advice from his advisors and cabinet members when it comes to any issue, but ultimately the decision is the president's. When it comes to any issue, a president's decision should always be in the interest of the American people. An example of an issue would be an invasion into another country or fueling certain aspects of the economy such as bailing out banks.

How have presidents influenced culture in the past century?

Presidents affect culture differently, but within the last century, many presidents have done great things for our society. An excellent example of this would be President Lyndon B. Johnson, the biggest contributor to the civil rights movement who passed the Civil Rights Act, and President John F. Kennedy, who created a large amount of support for the civil rights movement in America. Both LBJ and JFK pushed hard for social and civil equality in the United States to change social norms within our country.

Even though many of us are still too young to vote, it is good to keep in mind what our president can and cannot do. Regardless of your opinion on the President, when the time comes, think to yourself if the person you are voting for is able to perform the duty of President of the United States.



Great Tragedy of Notre Dame Unites the Masses



The Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris burns as firefighters attempt to put out the blaze.

CNN



By Angelo Riodique ('22)
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, April 15, 2019, the world watched as the great Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris burned. The famous French landmark was nearly lost. Thankfully, only parts of the roof and the spire were destroyed, with the two main towers built in the 13th century surviving. The cathedral is currently closed to the public, but French Minister of Culture, Françoise Nyssen, said that the government

hopes to reopen the cathedral for the public in about five years.

NBC News says that the fire broke out in the attic of the cathedral at 6:50 P.M. after the cathedral was closed to the public. The burning of the iconic cathedral was live streamed on many news networks worldwide and was witnessed in person by both those visiting and living in France. People wept and prayed on the streets as well as on the boats that passed on the River Seine next to the cathedral. Eyewitness accounts from an American student who was studying abroad recounted that

while she was on the River Seine, she noticed French citizens hugging each other and sobbing. This deeply mournful moment united the world. "The oldest daughter of Christendom" fell along with the hearts of the French people.

All over the world, people sought to help the French through this trying time. Currently, over 1 billion euros have been donated in support of the rebuilding effort. "Like all our compatriots, I am sad this evening to see this part of all of us burn," French President Emmanuel Macron said.

The great Notre Dame Cathedral, also referred to as Our Lady of Paris, had its origins as a Roman temple dedicated to Jupiter. Eventually, as Christianity rose in the Roman Empire, that temple fell and a Catholic church was put in its place. Since its construction, the church has been destroyed twice. These two destroyed buildings were then replaced with one larger, grandiose structure. This construction was the brainchild of the French Bishop Maurice de Sully in 1160, and the foundation's first stones were laid by Pope Alexander III in 1163. In 1189, the high altar was consecrated, and, in 1250, the choir and the western facade were completed. After this, the chapel's porches and other accessories were completed within 100 years; however, it was not until 300 years later that the cathedral was entirely finished.

The famous spire, which burned during the fire, was restored during the 18th century due to instability. In recent years, there have been many more restoration efforts conducted on the cathedral. One of the famous restorations was during the mid 19th century, with most of the cathedral having been restored and modified since then. The most recent renovation occurred in April of 2019 and was still in progress during the fire.

The hearts of many are broken at the loss of the jewel of France. "We will rebuild," French President Emmanuel Macron said in hopes of encouraging the people of France to move forward. We will rebuild with our hearts and prayers toward the French people.

Chaplain's Corner

Rita, Saint of the Impossible



By Fr. Kirk Davis, O.S.A.
COLUMNIST

On Wednesday, May 22nd, the universal church, the Augustinian order, and devotees around the world celebrated the Feast of St. Rita of Cascia, an Augustinian saint who lived a remarkable life and continues to inspire those who know her story. Born in a small Italian village in the year 1381, Rita lived a seemingly unremarkable early life: she married a local man, gave birth to twin sons, and devoted herself to caring for her family. When her husband was caught between rival factions in the town and murdered, Rita focused her grief on healing rather than vengeance. She devoted herself to reconciling the opposing local groups and to promoting peace in her town.

Her prayer that her sons not be tempted to avenge their father's murder was ironically answered when they both fell ill and died from disease. At the age of thirty-six, Rita entered the convent of the Augustinian nuns in Cascia, pledging to follow the Rule of St. Augustine for the rest of her years. She was noted for her devotion to prayer, to works of charity, and especially for continuing to promote peace and harmony both in the town of Cascia and in her own community. Later in life, her prayer to be united more closely to Christ was answered when she received the stigmata on her forehead as though from a crown of thorns.

When she was nearing death, her sisters asked if she had any final requests. She asked for a rose from her parent's garden—but it was the dead of winter and this was virtually impossible. Nevertheless, a sister was dispatched to the garden where, to the amazement of all, she found a single, perfect rose in bloom. Thus, the saint of the thorn became the saint of the rose. Rita, whose impossible requests were granted, has come to be known as the saint of the impossible and also the saint of peacemakers. I encourage you all to draw inspiration from her life and example.

This will be my last Chaplain's corner for *The Augustinian*, as I have agreed to my religious superior's request to take on a new assignment. Beginning this summer, I will step into the role of pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Ojai, California. Having been at Saints since my ordination in 2010, this will be my first move as a priest, and my first job in parish work. I'm very grateful for my years here, and I ask for your prayers as I transition into this new ministry. I'll be back to visit Saints several times a year for matters associated with the Augustinians, and my work in support of Casa Hogar La Gloria in Tijuana will continue.

Should you find yourself in the Ojai area in the future, I hope and pray you'll look me up. God's peace on you all!

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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Joaquin Torre
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

► DEPARTURES

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to fill.

Mrs. Balmin has worked at Saints for nine years as an accountant in the main office. She is always ready to greet anyone at the front desk who needs assistance. She loves Saints, but she is excited about retirement. She hopes to pursue other activities, including reading, traveling, and spending time with her family. She has also enjoyed working with the faculty, especially Mr. Steve Chipp, Mrs. Beckie Garcia, and Mr. Kevin DeRieux.

She is ready to start the next chapter in her life, and she will greatly miss the wonderful faculty at Saints. Mrs. Balmin loves the educational environment of our school and enjoys seeing the seniors transition into college after knowing them for the four years they have attended Saints. She thinks

graduation is a special moment and a time for the seniors to reflect on their successes and failures. Her friends in the office, all the teachers, and the whole student body will all miss her dearly.

"I would like to say that I will miss Ann's giggles behind the divider, and her accurate guesses of who walks through the lobby just by hearing their voice," said Mrs. Garcia, the school's receptionist and Administrative Support Assistant.

Saints will be losing three incredible people and it will be hard to make up for the loss. All should feel welcomed into the Saints community. The brotherhood is not just among the students, as the teachers and staff are the glue that holds us together. From the whole staff at *The Augustinian*, we wish Fr. Kirk, Steven Funk, and Mrs. Balmin all the best in their future endeavors.

Should School Start at 8:35?



By Joseph Selfani ('21)
EDITOR

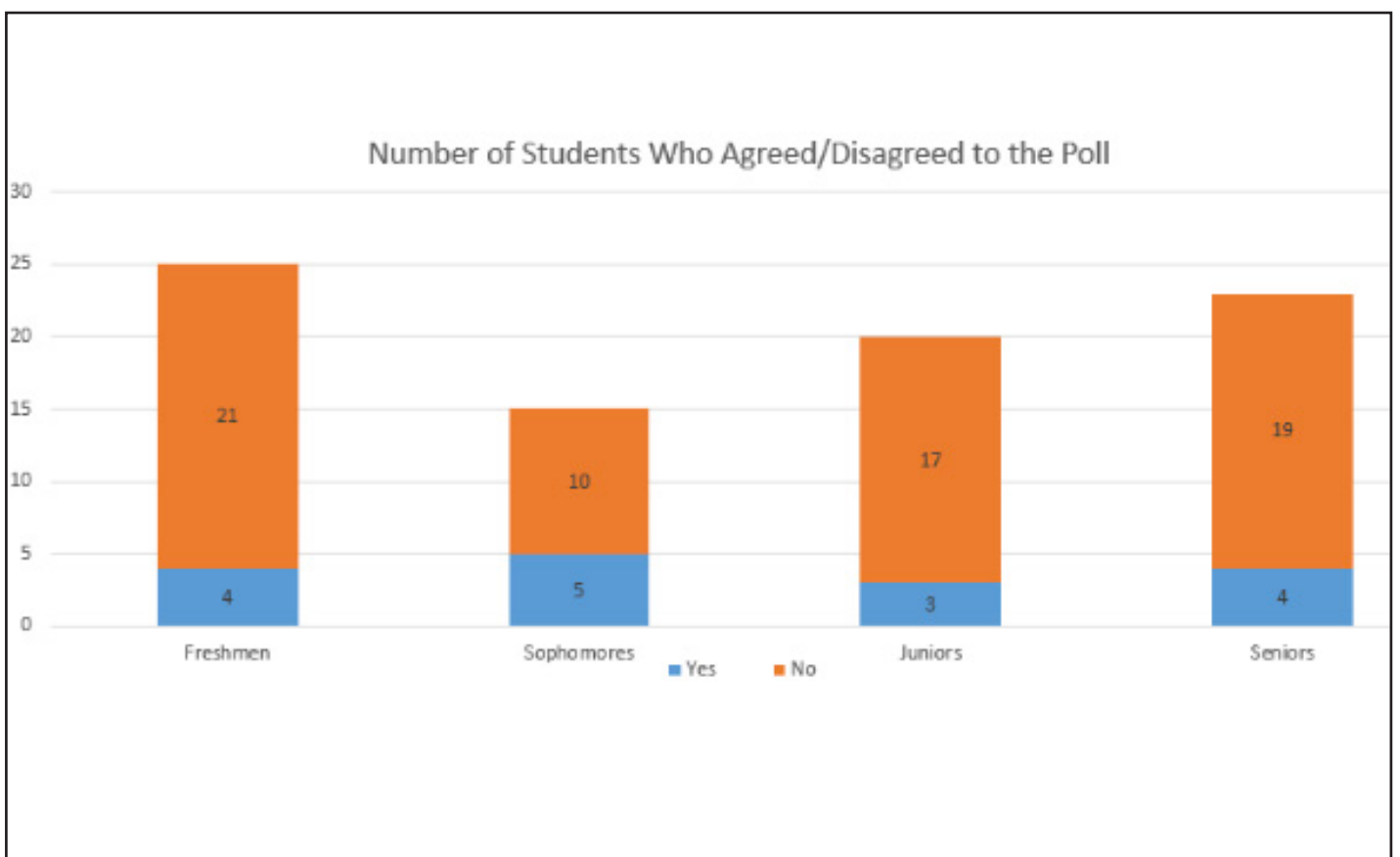
The problem of sleep deprivation, especially among students, has become a widely discussed topic, leading to numerous studies conducted by scientists, universities, and organizations such as the American Sleep Association. Not getting enough z's has resulted in greater stress, lower productivity at work, and, for students, lower academic performance.

When it comes to the question of students and sleep deprivation, many have pointed out that students, especially teens, are on a different biological clock than adults, and not only require more sleep but are wired to go to bed later. The problem is, while teens have a natural tendency to go to bed late, they are still required to attend school early in the morning. One only needs to look at the face of Saintsmen during block 1 to see how they feel.

In an effort to fight sleep deprivation among students, the San Diego Unified School District will soon move to a later school day for all of its schools; instead of beginning their day at 7:20, they'll begin at 8:35.

What if Saints began its school day at 8:35 each morning instead of 7:45? That's fifty minutes later, which, on the one hand, would lead to more sleep, but, on the other, would lead to school dismissing later in the day, at 2:50 pm.

To discover how Saintsmen would feel about a later start/dismissal time, *The Augustinian* conducted a poll in four homerooms corresponding to the different class levels. Students were polled in the homerooms of Mr. Isaak (9th grade), Ms. Drummy (10th), Mr. Bachynsky



(11th), and Mr. Lamerato (12th). They were asked the following question: *How would you feel if Saints started at 8:35 AM and ended at 2:50 PM?*

As portrayed in the graph, the majority of students would rather not start school late. Of the percentage of people that said yes to starting school at 8:35, the sophomores had the highest with 33%, the seniors with 17%, the freshmen with 16%, and lastly, the juniors with 15%. Still, in every class, the vast majority were against adopting such a change.

Despite the benefit of a late start time allowing students to get more sleep, the late finish at 2:50 comes with its down-

sides.

"Finishing at 2:50 would be a huge problem for the football team and other sports teams since we do not have lights on our field, and installing them would cost thousands. The late start time would take away much-needed time from practice before dusk," Mr. Osberg said.

In addition, heavy traffic usually begins at around 8:00, and since the majority of Saintsmen take freeways to get to school, they would still have to wake up fairly early to accommodate for the traffic. Starting school 50 minutes later would probably result in only 30 minutes or less of extra sleep, possibly making the trade-off not worth the cost.

The effect of a later start time at school, while it may allow students an extra half hour or so of sleep, might lead to problems after school with the 2:50 finish time. Sports teams would lose daylight before dusk, taking time away from practice.

It remains to be seen how the schedule change implemented by San Diego Unified will be received, and whether or not it will make a positive impact. Only time will tell whether Saints will eventually conform to a later schedule, but, for now, the schedule will stand as it is—at least if Saintsmen have anything to say about it.

University of Seattle

Ethan Tarlov

University of Colorado at Boulder

Benjamin Danielski

Air Force Academy

John Dye

Whitworth University

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University of Portland

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Southwestern College

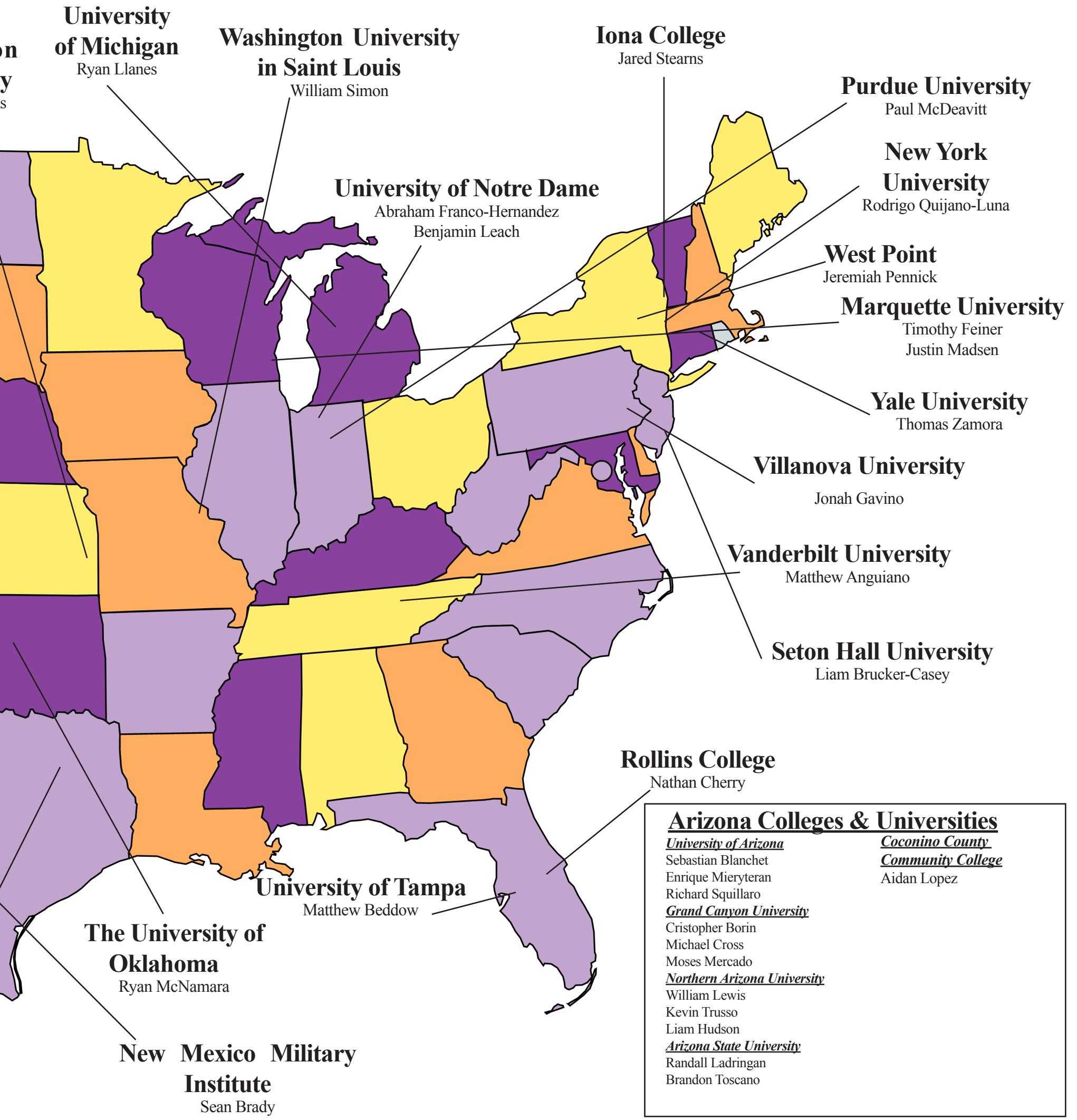
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<u>Grand Canyon University</u>	
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Michael Cross	
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Kevin Trusso	
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<u>Arizona State University</u>	
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<u>California State University, Fullerton</u>	<u>Santa Clara University</u>
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Students Exhibit Austin Powers



By Graeme
Morland-Tellez ('21)
EDITOR

Saints did away with the Valedictorian award several years ago, so you might be wondering how students are honored for their academic achievements. In addition to the Principal's Trophy, the Austin Exams also serve to fill the void.

Each year towards the end of the second semester, high-achieving students—typically six or seven—are invited to participate in a rigorous oral exam known as the Austins, consisting of questions from a number of different subjects.

Austin participants compete against each other to obtain the highest award possible: Summa Cum Laude (with the highest praise). The remaining awards that can be achieved are Magna Cum Laude (with great praise) and Cum Laude (with praise). No matter how they do, they all walk away honored.

Departments chairpersons individually ask each participant the same set of questions in their respective disciplines, and, at the end, all the chairs discuss how the students should be awarded.

This year's seven Austin scholars were Matthew Anguiano, Nicolas Correa, Jordan Geniza, Benjamin Leach, Johnathon Soro, Andrew Tran, and Thomas Zamora. They were tested in English, science, mathematics, social studies, religion, and the visual and performing arts. They were also called to reflect upon their personal

understandings of the Integral Student Outcomes.

The test consists of five parts, each corresponding to a specific subject. Austin scholars meet one-on-one with department chairs and are tested in a way most students aren't used to: orally. Each test takes place in a separate room, and lasts about ten minutes.

Those who are selected to sit for the Austin Exams automatically include the student who has averaged the highest weighted grade point average for the first seven semesters of their Saints career. The Academic Council then selects the rest of the students out of a pool comprised of the top ten percent of their class. The number selected each year varies and is completely dependent on the top ten percent of the class.

"Some years have had as few as five and others as many as eight," Mr. Christian da Luz, who has been the Austin Exam coordinator for 15 years, said.

The exam itself can contain material that falls anywhere between what was taught at the freshmen level and that of the senior level, although some exceptions are made for students who have not taken a particular class.

Before the exams, department heads provide the participants with a study guide, each varying in level of detail.

"Some departments are looking for the student to express what they know rather than the student's ability to study for an exam, because, quite honestly, the students are in their position because we clearly know they can study for an exam," Mr. da Luz said.

The Austin Exams occur after the col-

lege application system, and, as a result, have no effect on college acceptance. This might lead one to wonder what purpose the Austin Exams serve.

The goal is to simply recognize students for the academic achievements they have accumulated throughout their Saints education. The awards of Austin Scholar Summa Cum Laude, Austin Scholar Magna Cum Laude, and Austin Scholar Cum Laude are given to the students during the senior award assembly.

Overall, the Austin Exams honor the students who have earned academic achievements throughout their Saints experience. Although the exams do not benefit the college application process, it means much more and represents an achievement that is unique to the Saints career.

"I felt honored. It is probably one of the highest awards you could get at Saints and I was left speechless," senior Matt Anguiano said.

The Austin Exams are indeed one of the greatest honors Saints bestows on its most gifted pupils. Every student should strive to be an Austin Scholar so that they might experience its prestige and forever be recognized as a member of Saints most distinguished club.

So if you are trending at the top of your class, you might get rewarded—with rigorous oral exams!



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this statement, as the team went 17-7 overall, including 7-1 in league play, earning the seventh seed in the Open Division and advancing to the third round of the CIF playoffs before losing to La Costa Canyon.

"I'm very proud of our young men and I think they took this program to new heights that volleyball on this campus has not seen before," Coach Hecht said.

The swim team sent three relay teams to CIF prelims as well as junior Tim Ordonio in the 100-yard breaststroke, freshman Steven Coons in the 100-yard backstroke, and sophomore Leuck Hammes in the 100-yard butterfly and the 500-yard freestyle. Hammes advanced to the CIF finals, a huge accomplishment for the team.

Golf had a solid season as they finished league play ranked 18th in the county with great rounds by senior Rodrigo Bremer, junior Diego Bremer, and senior Diego Gonzalez. The team also saw the emergence of a new star, freshman Jacob Paule, who won in league match play and finished among the top 30 golfers in the county.

The tennis team had a great season as they finished 13-4 overall, including 7-3 in league play. They had the second-best overall record in the City Western league. The team received strong play from sophomore Noah Zamora and freshman Gabriel Casta and beat Cathedral 11-7 in City Western League play.

This wraps up a strong year from all of our Saints teams with many bringing home league championships and CIF rings. We hope that we can continue the athletic dominance into the distant future.

Mr. Freestone Climbs Into Teaching



By Lucas Wahl ('22)
STAFF WRITER

Mr. Christopher Freestone ('10) will be a new teacher at Saints in the coming school year. Although he has become a familiar face on campus as a substitute teacher, there is still much saintsman do not know about him. Mr. Freestone, a Saints graduate, is an excellent fit for the school, and his professional peers concur.

"He understands what Saints is all about, and he loves the Saints community and is thrilled to come back home," Mr. Isaak said.

He will be replacing Mr. Weber as the AP Physics teacher this fall and will be teaching Algebra I. Many Saintsman are looking forward to it. He is known as a pleasant and charming substitute teacher, which will surely translate well when he will be in charge of classes of his own.

One of Mr. Freestone's favorite times at Saints was Intersession. He took the mountain biking course as a sophomore due to his love for the outdoors and solo activities. He said that the alluring and scenic trails were something he never forgot.

While at Saints, Mr. Freestone was encouraged by Mr. Bachynsky to join the newspaper, but sadly, he declined. His favorite subject was always math because he loved the effort required to understand and solve complex problems.

Mr. Isaak has had a big influence on Mr. Freestone's career.

"When I graduated 8th grade, I was a C student in math," Mr. Freestone said. He described his freshman year with Mr. Isaak as a process of listening and hard work. Mr. Isaak's style of teaching helped



Mr. Freestone will begin teaching at Saints in the coming school year. Joaquin Torre ('21)

him to understand the more complicated facets of math, allowing him to develop the affinity for the subject that he will now be teaching.

"I attribute my endorsement of math to Mr. Isaak," Mr. Freestone said.

Mr. Freestone is also a passionate rock climber. He loves the idea of pushing himself and finally making it to the top. He pursued a career in engineering after he graduated from California State Polytechnic University Pomona; however, his engineering stint did not last very long.

His passion for the outdoors echoed throughout his journey to becoming a teacher. A few years ago, while instructing younger kids to rock climb, he discovered

his passion for teaching. This realization led Mr. Freestone to reach out to Mr. Isaak and tell him that he wanted to become a teacher. Mr. Isaak suggested that he obtain his teaching credential and spend more time at Saints.

"You go to work for 10 hours a day, and if you hate it, you're only living for those two hours at home. When you enjoy your career, you spend 10 hours doing what you like, and when you go home, you are in a cheerful mood," Mr. Isaak said.

Mr. Freestone and Mr. Isaak share a similar teaching philosophy, which will make them a dynamic duo in the math department.

In addition to Mr. Freestone's interest-

ing background, his mustache is a crucial component of his appearance.

"Back in my engineering class, I would be proud of myself if I grew a few hairs, just like my professor," Mr. Freestone said. Ever since these early days, he has experimented with many different types of facial hair.

"A good mustache is well kept and taken care of on the regular and worn with pride," he said. Another one of his facial hair inspirations comes from the one and only Mr. Cudal, who has the most famous mustache at Saints. Mr. Freestone describes Mr. Cudal's legendary mustache as "perfect".

The Saints community will be happy to see Mr. Freestone in the classroom next year as he begins his teaching career.

Your ad could be here, but it isn't, so now you have to look at this ugly monkey.



The Augustinian Taken Over by New Editors



The new team of editors are always hard at work.

Joaquin Torre ('21)



By Angel Perez ('21)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

BREAKING NEWS:

In a massive revolution, the previously oppressive and generally evil dictatorship led by Alejandro “The Menace” Eros, has been taken down and replaced with a new team of leaders.

Eros’s partners in crime, Liam Brucker-Casey, Matthew Anguiano, Nicolas Correa, and Abraham Franco-Hernandez

were also removed from power, and the five men will be unenrolled from the school pending graduation.

This revolution came in the form of a coup, led by the sixth and final member of the previous editorial team, sophomore Angel “Press” Perez. After removing the senior dictators from power, Perez recruited an entirely new team of editors comprised of primarily underclassmen, bringing a fresh perspective to Saints journalism.

This new crew is comprised of five editors, including Perez himself. The others are Thomas Vedder (managing editor), Joseph Selfani, Kai da Luz, and, last but not least, Graeme Morland-Tellez.

“Good luck. Don’t screw this up,” said departing editor Matthew Anguiano.

While these words may come from a known evildoer, the heartfelt and compassionate sentiment that they represent overshadows the disgusting crimes against humanity that Anguiano has com-

mitted in his two years as an accomplice to Eros.

While they do appreciate Anguiano’s sage advice, these fine young men are a worthy and capable bunch. Throughout the course of this school year, they have collectively published over 15 articles. Additionally, each member brings their own English expertise to the table, with a grand total of 11 honors and AP courses taken collectively by the new editorial staff.

In their free time, these Saintsmen enjoy overthrowing oppressive dictatorships, writing satirical articles, and, of course, spending the hours that they would be wasting with sleep editing the upcoming issues of *The Augustinian*.

The news of this revolution and of the dynamic and capable new team of editors has spread like a wildfire.

“Oh, actually? Oh, that’s cool. Congrats,” said sophomore Matthew Cross after hearing the news.

Although this seemingly surprised reaction came nearly a month after the announcement of the new editors, Cross was only feigning surprise. Rather, he was so starstruck to be in the presence of the Angel Perez that he attempted to “play it cool” and remain casual.

The ragtag team of editors has big hopes for the newspaper, with a goal to put out six issues, hoping to far surpass the previous editorial staff, which was only able to put out a measly six issues. Additionally, the group hopes to include articles in the paper, as well as the frequent appearance of images, memes, and comics.

If these prospects sound as riveting and innovative to you as they do to the editors, you are cordially invited to join the best student organization on campus, *The Augustinian*, next school year!

Editorial Staff Hands Down the Gauntlet



Alejandro Eros yields his infinity gauntlet with each of his trusty editors.

Graeme Morland-Tellez ('21)

By Liam Brucker-Casey ('19)
and Alejandro Eros ('19)

Alejandro Eros,
editor-in-chief emeritus

Thank you, Saintsmen, for giving me a platform to write, edit, and design a publication for all of you to read, and thank you for being a fair audience. If you’re reading this, you probably read the school newspaper consistently. The average Saintsmen does not read the whole paper, and I think most people

probably only look at the pictures and the comics. This year we added a meme section just to appeal to those who are not as invested in the news that we write. I only hope that it was entertaining for some of you. The last issue was my final run for *The Augustinian*, so I see it fit to thank all of those who read the Saints newspaper and wish the best for the future of the paper.

Thank you, Mr. Bachynsky, for keeping us from burning down the school and desecrating the Saints reputation with

our yellow journalism.

Saintsmen like to say that they found brotherhood in sports throughout their high school career. I think that’s how people commonly make strong bonds here, but I speak for the entire editing staff when I say that we became brothers too. Long hours of editing and stressing over deadlines brought us together in a way that nothing else could. *The Augustinian* is in good hands, now. Good Luck, Angel Perez and all of your grunts.

Liam Brucker-Casey,
managing editor emeritus

Whether you are a student, parent, teacher, alumnus, or anyone who likes to read the paper, I’d like to thank you for reading *The Augustinian*. Writing and editing *The Augustinian* for these last four years has been an inarticulable honor and joy. As a team, we have spent many afternoons and evenings editing, writing, researching, laughing, and messing around. I understand that it may be difficult to imagine what goes on in Mr. Bachynsky’s Mysterious Gulag. I am so lucky to work under our Supreme Leader, His Most Holy, Illustrious, and Royal Highness Alejandro Erös, and lead the rest of the editorial staff.

I’d like to use my parting farewell as a chance to encourage Saintsmen to involve themselves in *The Augustinian*. There are so many opportunities and positions. If you can write, research, illustrate, or photograph, please don’t hesitate to attend one of the meetings every Tuesday at lunch in Mr. Bachynsky’s room.

I know I speak for all of the departing editorial team when I say that *The Augustinian* will be in good hands. Angel and his loyal band of editors are a capable, clever bunch. So make sure to always read the paper, as I know I will continue to do so from my dorm.

Augustinian Schools Congregate at SAVI X



Students from ten Augustinian schools across the country came together at St. Augustine Prep in New Jersey.



By Kai da Luz ('21)
EDITOR

The Student Augustinian Values Institute, or SAVI for short, is an organization of Augustinian schools that work together with the Order of Saint Augustine to echo Augustinian teachings to students and encourage religious leadership in their respective schools and communities. Chief among these are the Augustinian core values of *Unitas*, *Veritas*, and *Caritas*.

Every year, six students that embody these values are chosen by their respective schools to attend this institute. Saints chose representatives from the sophomore class, and this year, Alex Alcalay, Angel Perez, Joseph Selfani, Joseph Soro, Graeme Morland-Tellez, and I all took part in the 10th annual SAVI experience.

We left with Father Kirk and Mrs. Walp on Wednesday, April 3. It was a warm and temperate San Diego day as we got on our United Airlines flight to San Francisco. After a two hour layover, the group and I landed at Philadelphia international airport. Upon arrival, we went to visit Villanova University, which was founded by the Order of Saint Augustine. The weather was very brisk and unforgivingly cold. In other words, it was quite "anti-San Diegan." We were given a tour by Saints graduates Andrew Mora ('18)

and Luis Arechiga ('18). The campus was truly beautiful and the Villanova environment felt almost like a continuation of ours here at Saints.

After Villanova, we headed to the South Philadelphia Sports Complex and from there, we boarded a bus with three other Augustinian schools. It was really interesting to hear all the different dialects and accents of our peers from around the country and around the world.

When we arrived at St. Augustine Preparatory School in Richland, New Jersey, the campus itself was overwhelming. There were two functioning gyms, a large mess hall and activities room, a few baseball fields, multiple classrooms and learning centers, as well as a large swimming pool all located on a campus which was comprised 118 acres of wooded property.

There were a total of 10 schools in attendance: Cascia Hall in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Malvern Prep in Malvern, Pennsylvania; Providence Catholic in New Lenox, Illinois; St. Augustine Prep in Richland, New Jersey; Austin Preparatory in Reading, Massachusetts; St. Rita of Cascia in Chicago, Illinois; Villanova Prep in Ojai, California; Villanova College in King City, Ontario; Austin Catholic in Chesterfield, Michigan, and us.

We arrived and were given a tour of St. Augustine Prep by two of their SAVI

students. At 6:00 pm, we gathered in the mess hall and were divided into our small groups, with no more than one person from each school in each group. We then had a savory dinner provided by WAWA, a company that was deeply ingrained in the community of Richland and of St. Augustine Prep. Following the meal, we began some icebreakers games to get to know our fellow Augustinian brothers and sisters a little better. One by one each school presented their school videos they had made in the weeks leading up to the trip to give all present a little insight on what they were all about. Again, Saints stole the show with an Oscar-worthy performance by our very own Mr. Dillon.

After a presentation on Augustine and his importance on friendship, we were led into an evening prayer by the leader of SAVI X, Mr. Towell of St. Augustine Prep. We each held unlit candles as the quiet flame was passed effortlessly from candle to candle, soon lighting up the darkened room while music echoed in the background.

The next day we focused on the values held most dear in each and every Augustinian school: unity, truth, and love. Beginning with *Veritas*, we had a small group discussion on the importance of truth in our lives and how God is the absolute truth according to Augustine.

For me, what followed was the most moving experience of SAVI X. We had our *Caritas* presentation on the necessity of love in one's life, and then were notified we would be spending the next few hours with underprivileged 1st and 2nd graders from a local elementary school. After laughing and doing art, playing kickball, and eating lunch and ice cream with my 1st grader, Nasir, he told me that he was not able to see his half brother and that these few hours meant a lot to him. He was happy to have spent that day with me instead of at home.

It was truly amazing and touching to see the effect that even a few hours of love can have on someone's life.

Our final presentation was *Unitas*, during which we held small group discussions on the importance of unity and a sense of community between Catholics and specifically Augustinians around the world.

We had 2 hours of free time in which I spent playing cards and hanging out with some of my new friends, which then flowed into a presentation on servant leadership. We concluded day two with evening prayer, followed by a large pool party and many tiring games of water polo as well as a movie night.

Our last full day in New Jersey began with our departure from St. Augustine Prep and embarked on the Philadelphia excursion. We went to the Phillies vs. Twins game at Citizen Bank Park for baseball, crab fries, and Philly cheese steaks.

I then sat down and essentially passed out, only to wake up to The National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia in South Philadelphia. The pink church walls commemorating her miracle with the roses as well as a depiction of the Christ of Holy Saturday. I then returned to the bus with my peers and we ventured onto the historic St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Philadelphia.

We finished the day with a special dinner consisting of the finest Italian cuisine provided by Scarpinato's Cucina & Catering. We then enjoyed our last night with our SAVI friends as we all knew that the next morning we would sadly go our separate ways.

We ate a quick breakfast that Sunday morning, soon followed by the closing Mass of SAVI X. It was a bittersweet moment as one by one we received our small crosses with the restless heart of St. Augustine.

Although the trip is over and we are now hundreds of miles apart, I will truly never forget my SAVI experience and my new community of young Augustinians.

The Last Stretch

By Matthew Cross ('21)

