

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

Issue 4

March 12, 2020

St. Augustine High School

Winter Sports Wave Goodbye



By Manny Butler ('22)
STAFF WRITER

The winter sports have all wrapped up successful seasons. Soccer finished with a 9-6-4 record and won the Western League with a 6-1-1 record. The basketball team finished the regular season at 23-5 and earned the second seed in the Open Division, where they reached the semifinal. The rugby team also had a phenomenal season, going undefeated, including a victory over Cathedral Catholic to retain the coveted Titan Shield. Wrestling had an important contribution from all classes on route to an impressive season. Additionally, the surf team had an exciting season of hitting the waves and creating an important base for future success.

The Saints basketball team returned with a lineup nearly identical to last year's, as four of the players from the 2018-2019 starting lineup once again led the team. Out of eleven total players on the team, six are seniors and four are juniors. The lone sophomore on the team is Prince Adjei, who is also the team's tallest player at 6'8". There is no doubt that the experience on the team helps them perform well when under pressure.

The team's only losses against San Diego schools were at the hands of Cathedral Catholic. The first was an excruciating two-point home loss in which Saints led by as many as six points in the fourth quarter, and the second being an eight-point loss on the road.

The team still qualified for the Open Division, where they began their quest for a championship with a home game against Mater Dei. The Saints jumped out to an early lead, with a top season highlight coming in



The Saints join together before they face Christian High School. Joaquin Torre ('21)

the first quarter as senior Luke Haupt got the ball on a fast break and tomahawk dunked over a Mater Dei player. Saints won the game 65-60.

In the semifinal against Torrey Pines, the Saints again entered halftime losing, this time by four. However, the first half didn't go by without a memorable highlight, as senior Nakial Cross hammered home a thunderous dunk and drew a foul, bringing the crowd to their feet.

The Saints retook the lead in the third quarter, however, Torrey Pines kept the game close and entered the fourth quarter down by one. In the end, Torrey Pines won 56-54. However, the CIF playoff run was not over with the Saints given an opportunity to

challenge for the division one state championship. Unfortunately, the team was unable to counter the red hot three point shooting of Riverside Poly High School and lost 83-46.

Despite the bitter end to the playoff run, a 24-7 record is nonetheless impressive, and a congratulation to the players and coaching staff is in order. Chibuzo Agbo earned Player of the Year honors for his stellar season, while Luke Haupt was named to the second team.

The soccer team had a successful season, winning the Western League with a 6-1-1 record and qualifying for the Open Division playoffs. The key to this league championship was a comeback 2-2 draw at Cathedral and a 2-1 home victory over the Dons,

in which the opposition skyed a last-second penalty kick.

The team was buoyed by 13 seniors including three-year varsity starter and captain Isaac Tamer, who made the all-section first team. Goals came from everywhere on the roster including seven from senior David Rzeslawski and five from center back and senior captain Aidan Johnston.

Unfortunately, their season ended in heartbreak as they conceded a first-half free-kick goal against Canyon Crest Academy that was the difference in a 1-0 playoff loss.

While the basketball and soccer teams both experienced successful seasons, the rugby team reeled off the best season of the year so far, going undefeated to capture the SCIRF Championship.

The team finished the season 7-0 in league play. In doing so, they secured their third consecutive league title. Senior Jack Page led the league with seven tries, followed by senior Michael Colucci and sophomore Adrian Davis with six apiece. Colucci led the league in points with 68, as he also converted 19 kicks on the season.

In the last two seasons, the team had made the SCIRF championship game but came up short with losses. This year, they changed the narrative, defeating San Clemente 29-14 to capture the championship. Senior Aidan Konja was the Man of the Match with two tries and a conversion. Jack Page scored two tries and Michael Colucci went 2 of 3 on conversions and also scored a penalty kick for the Saints.

Saints Rugby traveled up north to face Jesuit in a de facto California championship on March 6. The Saints were unable to deal

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Serving Abroad in Italy and Guatemala



By Aidan Rickwa ('22)
STAFF WRITER

There are many wonderful and exciting adventures to be had during the month of intersession. Saintsmen can pick up new skills, exercise, have fun, and gain useful experiences with internships. Freshmen are able to fulfill their speech requirement in addition to getting away from their usual school routine.

Two of the most coveted intersession classes are the Guatemala and Italy service trips. Traveling out of the country for the month is an adventure that many Saintsmen would want to embark on. Although the trip is costly, most of the students who went believed it was well worth it. The trips are a time to gain service hours, grow closer as a group, and enjoy and admire the beauty around them.

The Italy trip was led by Mr. Vignol. He has been leading it for many years and is quite experienced with Italy, its culture, and its art. The Italy trip takes a group made up of primarily juniors and any seniors who wish to go instead of doing an internship, but some lucky sophomores were also able to travel. The trip leads students across Italy, visiting some of the best sites and cities, admiring the art, architecture, and culture. The journey also brought the Saintsmen to an Augustinian monastery, where they spent

time witnessing the Augustinians in prayer and simplicity. They also assisted with whatever chores and tasks needed to be taken care of. They earned service hours and a valuable experience as they learned more about the Augustinian order and grew closer together.

This year, Saintsmen were also able to experience Guatemala and partake in serving the communities in its various cities. The trip was led by Ms. Colorado and Fr. Max. They started in Tijuana and flew to Mexico City before flying to Guatemala itself. They rode to Mission San Lucas, located in the mountains west of Guatemala City, and stayed there for about a week and a half. They engaged in numerous forms of community service, mainly in construction, including building houses and mixing cement. They also had multiple cultural experiences by immersing themselves in the Latin American cuisine, visiting the women's cultural center, and having Mass with the locals.

Upon completing their week and a half of service, the group traveled to Antigua where they relaxed and did activities like hiking and swimming. After Antigua, they headed home with a number of service hours and a new perspective.

"The most memorable part of the trip was venturing into the water caves of Semuc Champey with only candles as a source of light," sophomore Andres Aguirre said.



The travelers pose in front of a lake in Guatemala. Courtesy of Andres Aguirre ('22) "The trip as a whole was a great opportunity to spend some quality time with my brothers and teachers that went. We gained insight into the daily lives of our less fortunate brothers and sisters and were glad to be helping in constructing homes for them."

The students were able to immerse themselves in the cultures of the countries they visited through service to those communities. The students also gained a new un-

derstanding of the world and about service and religion. The international trips at Saints are very coveted because of the great times that the students have and the memorable experiences that they share. Often these are some of the first classes students consider for intersession, as they represent an integral part of Saints' commitment to community engagement and cultural diversity.

Afghanistan: How We Got There, How to Leave



By Joseph Selfani ('21)
EDITOR

"We don't invade poor countries to make them rich. We don't invade authoritarian countries to make them democratic. We invade violent countries to make them peaceful and we clearly failed in Afghanistan." - James Dobbins, *American Diplomat*

Most people associate modern-day Afghanistan with war, terrorism, and conflict, and the turmoil seems to be endless. The United States has occupied the country for over 18 years without any significant progress to show for it. With upwards of a trillion dollars spent, hundreds of thousands of troops deployed, and almost 2,300 troops killed, Afghanistan created a dark stain on the foreign policy of the last three administrations. Now, with documents released in December by *The Washington Post*, it is apparent that America's government and military leaders knew Afghanistan was a lost cause, but hid evidence and lied to the public about their failures.

The modern history of Afghanistan can be traced back to the Soviet-Afghan war of 1979, when the Soviet Army invaded Afghanistan to keep the leader of the socialist Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) in power. This resulted in a war between communists and DRA troops against Afghanistan rebels, whose leaders collectively formed what was known as the Mujahideen.

The Mujahideen declared a jihad against the Soviets, leading many Islamic peoples to back the rebel army, including a certain leader bearing the name Osama bin Laden. The United States, in an effort to combat communism, also gave weapons to the Mujahideen to fight the Red (Soviet) Army.

In 1989, the Soviet Union left Afghanistan, leaving the current DRA government without a backer. The Soviet Union's retreat led to the fall of the socialist government and the start of the Afghanistan Civil War. During the civil war, the Mujahideen split into many branches under different leaders all looking



American soldiers prepare for combat in Afghanistan. *Encyclopedia Britannica*

for control of the country. One such branch was the Taliban under Mohammed Omar, who eventually seized most of the country by 2001 with the backing of Pakistan.

When Al-Qaeda under bin Laden led the September 11 attacks against the United States, the Taliban sheltered the terrorist group and its leader. George W. Bush demanded that the Taliban hand bin Laden over, but they refused, so Bush declared a War on Terror and launched an invasion into Afghanistan.

The invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 was initially a success, with much of Taliban territory being seized by U.S. forces. In just a month of fighting, the Taliban fled the capital Kabul and retreated south, with the U.S. enclosing on them. With the collapse of the Taliban government, a U.S. victory seemed inevitable. However, as 2002 wore on, the United States' momentum appeared to be slowing, with many Taliban leaders escaping, including Osama bin Laden.

The U.S. then shifted its focus from Afghanistan to Iraq, believing that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction to be used against America. After Iraq refused to turn over the weapons (because they didn't exist), the US invaded it in 2003. The war made

it necessary for the United States to transfer its troops and resources from Afghanistan to Iraq. This shift enabled the Taliban to regain its influence and power in the region. The United States continued fighting the grueling war for the next decade, and eventually, in 2011, US forces killed Osama bin Laden in a covert operation in Pakistan.

It is futile to continue fighting a war that cannot be won. After Osama bin Laden was killed in Pakistan, there was no longer any reason to continue fighting the war in Afghanistan, but the government persisted anyway.

At that time, there appeared to be a good reason for the war: the United States was making good progress in stopping the extremist regime of the Taliban and bringing Al-Qaeda to justice. This was the public perception, but at the governmental level, it was a different story.

After a brutal court battle that lasted three years, *The Washington Post* released transcripts and interviews that show military officials knew the war in Afghanistan was a failure since 2002, yet decided to lie to the public and remain in the region for 17 more years.

An example of the failure is with the

US's foreign policy with Pakistan. As explained before, Pakistan supported the Taliban during the Afghanistan Civil War, and during the US invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan was a safe country for leaders of the Taliban and Osama bin Laden. Moreover, while the US asked for Pakistan's cooperation, the country still supplied money and weapons to the Taliban even though they denied the claim.

"I have no visibility into who the bad guys are... We are woefully deficient in human intelligence," said U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in a memo dated Sept. 2003.

In addition, while three presidents—Bush, Obama, and Trump—stated that they would not fall into the trap of 'nation-building' in Afghanistan, the United States has spent more than \$133 billion to build up the country during their tenure. The efforts proved unsuccessful.

The unnecessary aid money that went into Afghanistan also fueled corruption. By allowing corruption, U.S. officials "helped destroy the popular legitimacy of the wobbly Afghan government they were fighting to prop up," according to *The Washington Post*. This led many Afghan people to turn to the Taliban to enforce order.

Another goal of US military generals was to train the Afghan army and police to fend for themselves without foreign aid. While the generals told the public that they were making progress, in reality, the Afghan police were described by one U.S. soldier as "awful — the bottom of the barrel in the country that is already at the bottom of the barrel." In addition, the economy of Afghanistan ran on the opium trade, as the country is the producer of 80% of the world's opium, yet the US and its allies could not come with a coherent plan to attack the drug trade.

Lastly, and most damaging, U.S. officials went back to the old mistakes of Vietnam: relying on dubious facts to convince the American public that the U.S. was making progress in the war.

"It was impossible to create good

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2020: Oh Well, There's Always Next Year



By Kai da Luz ('21)
EDITOR

For many, the year 2020 signifies a fresh start, a new beginning as we say "hello" to the coming decade. People across the globe have greeted the New Year with hope and the fantastic dream that 2020 would be their year. Unfortunately, as we enter March, it seems there are far too many signs dashing such hopes; indeed, many have begun to lose optimism and courage, and instead look fearfully at a world that seems to be bleeding.

Since September of 2019, wildfires have been devastating the Australian landscape. Helped along by a prolonged drought, they had wreaked havoc on Australia, especially its wildlife. Huge conflagrations and brush fires had swept up South Wales, inciting so much chaos that last November, they prompted the government to issue a state of emergency. With the new year, the fires have intensified even more.

By January 3rd of 2020, specialists in Australia revealed that the fires would not be coming to an end anytime soon, leading to more evacuations and more tears as toxic smoke and ash swept across the land. In February of 2020, the fires had begun to subside, and firefighters had announced they were able to control and contain the fires closest to the biggest populations, allowing all Aussies to take a breath of respite.

"All fires are contained, so we can really focus on helping people rebuild," said Rob Rogers, the deputy commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Australia's crisis has claimed the lives of



Fires have been raging in Australia since September of 2019. *The New York Times*

over 30 people, devoured over 2,500 homes, and engulfed 25.5 million acres of land.

There is plenty of coughing in other parts of the world, too, but not from smoke. The widespread Coronavirus epidemic has been making people sick all over the world. First spread in China, the viral strain, also known as COVID-19, began in Wuhan, China. China reported to the World Health Organization that several patients had been diagnosed who presented symptoms such as a fever, severe cough, sore throat, and runny nose. The disease can lead to more intense conditions such as pneumonia, and it can be fatal to those with asthma and cardiovascular disease.

The epidemic has shaken the globe, bearing both humanitarian and economic

consequences. As China is a major exporter of goods in international trade and the largest trade partner of the United States, various quarantines have spooked Wall Street investors, leading to a stock market decline. The companies hit the hardest have been airlines, with American Airlines and Delta dropping to their lowest prices in the past 4 months; much of this is due to both fear of travel and the hold on flights to and from China. Since the outbreak, over 77,658 cases have been confirmed and over 2,663 people have died in China alone due to the outbreak.

On January 3, more panic ensued when a United States drone strike killed Iranian major general Qasem Soleimani at Baghdad International Airport. Soleimani had long been an enemy of the United States and

other nations as he was the commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. Designated by both the United States and Canada as a terrorist organization, the assassination of Soleimani stirred up a great uproar in Iran. Soleimani had been very popular in Iran and in its surrounding regions, as he was viewed as a freedom fighter, protecting surrounding Christian and Kurd communities that had previously been devastated by ISIS.

Soleimani's killing further deepened the tensions between the United States and Iran, a longtime foe. Iran responded by attempting to expel US troops from their territory and the surrounding area, leading to a missile strike on two military bases in Iraq harboring US service members, which resulted in over 110 brain injuries.

Along with the January Taal Volcano eruption in the Philippines and other incidences around the globe, it would seem 2020 is going to be the year of international injuries. Still, there is so much to look forward to this exciting year. Yes, 2020 has brought us destruction, disease, and discord, things that create greater chaos and pull people apart, but it also brings a Mars rover mission, the 2020 United States presidential election, and the Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

With all of this to look forward to, we look upon 2020 with hope and anticipation, as there are still nine months of possibilities ahead—hopefully, good ones. The year 2020 isn't over yet!

Saints to Add Two New Classes Next Year



By Nolan Steinbuch ('21)
STAFF WRITER

In order to meet the ever-changing needs of the student body, the Saints administration continues to provide new opportunities for Saintsmen to improve their educational experience each year. In the coming year, there will be two new classes offered to students: Creative Writing and Introduction to Engineering.

Creative Writing will be a college-level writing workshop. It is a yearlong course for seniors who wish to engage in creative self-expression through writing and cultivate the habits and mindset of a professional writer and member of a writing community. In this class, students will explore and deconstruct classic and contemporary literary works. Models of "literary merit" will form the basis and foundation of many literary elements and techniques including diction, detail, characterization, and imagery.

This class will help the students form effective writing techniques, learn how to write for a variety of audiences, and examine several different publishing venues, all while helping the students grow in their literary journey by forming a distinct style. The course will have a focus on writing and studying fiction, non-fiction, and many types of poetry. Students will be engaged in a workshop process, including brainstorming, pre-writing, multiple drafts, peer editing, and eventually, publishing the students' works. Students will also be building up a portfolio, which will contain all of the pieces they produce throughout the year.

Creative Writing will be taught by Mr. Chesser, who currently teaches Honors English II for sophomores, AP English Language and Composition for juniors, and English IV for seniors. Mr. Chesser has an M.F.A. in poetry, and he taught a creative writing class at his previous job. When he

found out that Saints lacked a creative writing course, he eagerly offered to teach the class.

"Some schools already have a creative writing class," Mr. Chesser said. "I want to help Saints catch up, and even compete with other schools in the creative writing and literary aspect of education."

The second class that will be offered next year is Introduction to Engineering. This class is offered to all juniors and seniors who meet the prerequisites, which require students to be enrolled in Algebra II or higher. It is a year-long course covering engineering and its role in shaping the world around us. Engineering is meant to build upon the knowledge that students have learned from other classes that they may have taken, such as Physics and Precalculus, which are recommended but not required.

The ultimate goal of the course is to help students demonstrate and apply their scientific knowledge and skills as they become self-directed learners who can define and solve problems by planning and carrying out investigations, developing and using models, analyzing and interpreting data, and using other techniques.

Students enrolled in this course will often use mathematical models and computations, design solutions, engage in argument from evidence and obtain, evaluate, and communicate information. Those who take this class will develop a deeper understanding and mastery of the fundamentals of science, technology, mathematics, and engineering. They will also learn how to manage projects through the use of effective communication and teamwork.

While the teacher for Engineering has yet to be announced, the class has been confirmed. Introduction to Engineering and other science-based classes will also have access to the "Maker Space," which will be

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THE AUGUSTINIAN

Angel Perez

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Thomas Vedder
MANAGING EDITOR

Kai da Luz
EDITOR

Mr. Vladimir Bachynsky
MODERATOR

Graeme Morland-Tellez
EDITOR

Joseph Selfani
EDITOR

Joaquin Torre
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

► SPORTS

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with the rainy conditions and the staunch defense of their Northern California foe. Their tremendous season ended with a 22-5 loss.

On the mat, the Saints saw a record-breaking and monumental season. This year, the wrestlers saw multiple team members winning over 30 matches for the first time, multiple freshmen winning over 20 matches for the first time, and 5 individual Masters qualifiers (seniors Alex Reynoso and Eli Chokier, junior Dominic Pacheco, and freshmen Kevin Clements and Blaze Ackerman). The team placed 4th out of 28 teams in the Monte Vista Tournament, as well as placing 5th overall in CIF.

Additionally, junior Dominic Pacheco was the first non-senior to win multiple tournaments, and his astonishing four wins allowed him to place 3rd in CIF and qualify for Masters. Pacheco, who went on to be a Western League Champion, placed 6th in Masters, making him the first Masters placer since 2007.

Senior Alex Reynoso, who was also a league champion, saw a stellar season as well, placing in the top 3 in 5 tournaments throughout the season. Freshman Blaze Ackerman, who took 4th at CIF, was a Masters qualifier, and freshman Kevin Clements placed in 5 tournaments, placing 4th at CIF

and taking a top 12 position in the county. Clements, who also qualified for Masters, was the only frosh to qualify for Masters in his weight class.

The Saints surfers, who competed in five competitions throughout the season, were able to form a great sense of camaraderie between the Saints and OLP teams. Together with their sisters at OLP, new surfers were able to learn about the sport, while returning surfers were able to greatly develop and improve their talents.

"Surf is a great sport because you get to go out early in the morning and have a good time with your friends," junior Dominic Bacino said.

Throughout the season, the team saw exceptional growth and improvement, with each team member becoming more confident and comfortable in their abilities. "Shredding" the waves became second nature to the Saintsmen, and those who will be returning to the team in the coming year are looking forward to another successful season.

This season was exceptional, and the high number of victories across all levels attest to the standard of athletic performance in which Saints prides itself. As an athletic powerhouse, the school looks forward to the exciting spring season as the winter sports come to a phenomenal and bittersweet close.

SCOIRing A New College Planning System



By Jerome Santiago ('21)
STAFF WRITER

It's never too early to start thinking about college and career choices, especially as one begins their journey through high school. Throughout everyone's four years, planning plays a crucial role in a successful path to college and beyond. To assist in planning during these stressful times, our counselors have given all Saintsmen access to a new platform called SCOIR that helps students better understand their potential career path and college choices through a variety of tests and other resources offered on the website.

The original college and career planning program at Saints was Naviance. Naviance had been utilized by Saintsmen for many years, and it provided information on colleges, such as the acceptances of former Saintsmen and their standardized testing scores, the average cost of colleges, and filters as to which majors and programs can be found at specific colleges. It also offered Saintsmen tests and surveys that helped users decide which career best fits their personality type.

Recently, Saints has decided to part with Naviance. From now on, the counseling staff will be taking advantage of a new platform called SCOIR (pronounced "score"). SCOIR is a more modernized and user-friendly platform that provides all of the same services as Naviance, but with significant additional features.

The switch to SCOIR was influenced by the many aspects that this new platform has to offer. One motive for the switch is



The counselors will assist students with their college search via SCOIR. Kai da Luz ('21)

the modern and fresh look of the website. SCOIR gives students an appealing look that rivals the green and white blur of Naviance. Not only is SCOIR pleasing to the eye, but it also provides a more visual navigation experience for its users.

"We felt that the Scoir interface for students was more user-friendly, especially in the college exploration and application sections," Direct of Counseling Services, Dr. Rey, said.

In today's world, many subjects are taught to students in the form of videos and pictures and SCOIR provides its users with "You Visit" technology, a tool that allows a student to take a virtual tour of a

college campus from the comfort of their own home.

Users can also access videos from those who are already attending the college that they are researching, giving Saintsmen real-life information from experienced students. The videos offered include testimonials on the best way to go through the college application process, an overview of life on campus, and even showcases college dorms and cafeterias.

SCOIR offers extensive information on many colleges, giving the user a complete guide to any school. SCOIR gives a user everything they may need or want to know about schools that they are planning on ap-

plying to, including graphs and statistics for tuition, acceptance rates, average SAT and ACT scores, college requirements, application fees and deadlines, diversity rates, retention rates, popular majors, financial aid rates, and many more distinct criteria that may be relevant to one's college search.

With the use of SCOIR's College Search, a user is able to find and sort schools that meet their preferences. Users can filter options and preferences such as academic focuses, school size, average test scores, degrees, athletics, and many more choices. With this filter, students are able to easily find colleges that fit their interests and style.

SCOIR also does a remarkable job in helping its users find what careers would fit their personality through YouScience technology. YouScience gives the user a series of tests and exercises that utilize the student's personality and traits to match them with careers that would best fit those aptitudes. This series of assessments analyze one's work approach, interpersonal style, timeframe orientation, vocabulary, numerical reasoning, sequential reasoning, idea generation, inductive reasoning, visual comparison speed, and spatial visualization. With the results from these assessments, YouScience produces an in-depth analysis of the abilities and natural strengths of the user, providing a list of compatible career options.

The counseling staff believes that the accessibility and ease of navigation also make SCOIR a better avenue for college

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Ask an Expert: Caucuses and Primaries



By Nicholas Sajor ('21)
STAFF WRITER

As Americans, we have the right to select the one person who will be our president out of the tens of millions of eligible citizens. But how do we select the finalists from each party who will be competing for our votes on November 3? The parties—Democratic and Republican—have established electoral systems that take the form of either primaries and caucuses in each of the 50 states and the American territories.

But what, exactly, is the difference between the two? To clarify, this Ask an Expert column features an interview with Mr. Christian da Luz, the AP US History and AP US Government & Politics teacher.

The Augustinian: Why do we have primaries and caucuses, and what are they?

Mr. da Luz: You hold caucuses to have the political party leadership at the state level, and the local level, whittle down candidates. It's kind of an interesting process in which you have at a caucus the idea of sitting in a meeting room or gymnasium and constituents or supporters of the multitude of candidates have a debate, a pow-wow as to why they're supporting one candidate versus the other, and at the end of the day they're trying to sway the other party leaders to go with their candidate. They would then take an informal vote; typically in a caucus with an informal vote it could be done by paper, it could be done by a show of hands, and if any one candidate gets less than 15% of the vote, supporters of that candidate have the option to continue to try to convince people so they could get over 15%, or decide to take their votes and join the other candidates. Then they keep doing that until they narrow [the field] down the candidate who's



Mr. da Luz teaches AP U.S. History and AP U.S. Government and Politics Riley Scanlan ('23)

going to carry their district, if you will. Primaries came in really as a way to make elections more inclusive. They are much more inclusive than caucuses, partially because a caucus is going to have a situation where you have to go to a meeting place. [Primaries are] much more accessible [because] you don't have to sit there for the whole meeting; it does allow for greater access. Beyond that, a caucus doesn't lend itself to things like mail-in voting. With the primary, just as in caucuses, it is about weeding down candidates for the general election. Another key difference between caucuses and a primary is that caucuses are run by political parties and primaries are run by state and local governments.

The A: Can you talk about the partisan na-

ture of these primary elections? Why are there both Democratic and Republican primaries?

Mr. D: You get a situation where, clearly, we have a two-party system and even though we do have independents running, with the primaries... and the caucuses the sole goal is to find your best party representative. A primary, at the end of the day, [is where] we're giving people a choice, within their party to say 'this is who I think will represent my interests best in the general election.' that would occur in a closed primary, versus an open primary. An open primary where you can go in and ask for a Democratic ballot or a Republican ballot, regardless of party affiliation. A closed primary, which is what

we have here in California, would basically preclude you as a registered Democrat or a registered Republican to receive the primary ballot from said party. There is a third type of primary called a blanket primary that allows for cross-party voting. California used to have a blanket primary. One key drawback to blanket primaries can be manipulated to bolster weaker general election candidates.

The A: There is an upcoming event colloquially known as "Super Tuesday" in which California participates. Can you explain what occurs on that day?

Mr. D: With Super Tuesday you have a multitude of states having their primaries or caucuses [on the same day.] Super Tuesday is going to give us a better read as to who the serious candidates are. You're probably going to see a lot of candidates fall by the wayside after Super Tuesday. So just the sheer number of states having primaries or caucuses [on the same date] creates that phenomenon that we call Super Tuesday.

The A: How are all the states' primary and caucus votes assembled to choose the overall winners?

Mr. D: You're fighting in the caucuses and the primaries for delegates to be disseminated amongst the candidates. When it's all said and done, at the national conventions [for the political parties,] those delegates are then cast for said candidates, and the candidates with the largest number of votes or delegates typically will take the party nomination. One of the interesting things that we've seen... is that there's been more focus on primaries and caucuses so the national conventions have lost a bit of the excitement they used to have; they're really more coronation ceremonies now.

Chaplain's Corner

Fr. Max offers to bless the cars of Saintsmen as they enter the complicated and often dangerous world of driving.



By Fr. Max Villeneuve, O.S.A.
COLUMNIST

It is an American rite of passage during high school to receive your license and be entrusted with the keys to a car. When I was in high school, I lived in San Francisco, where learning to drive a car is a bit trickier than it is here in San Diego.

Double parked trucks, one-way streets, steep hills, and moving trolleys - it was all a lot to take in. So much so that let's just say I took my drivers test "a few" times until I was able to pass and receive my license.

Driving is a great joy and a great gift. I love driving the coast of Baja down to Ensenada, or up the coast of Malibu towards our parish and sister school in Ojai. Driving can also be aggravating. Other drivers often lack awareness and can be seen texting, talking on the phone, eating, and doing just about anything except driving their vehicle safely.

While this is often just a nuisance, the consequences can be very real. Driving is a responsibility. When we get behind the wheel of a car, we are placing our lives and the lives of many others in our hands. This means that we are being entrusted with a sacred responsibility to one another, ourselves, and our God.

If driving can be considered sacred then, can the vehicles we drive be sacred as well? Indeed, they can be! The Church sees God in all things and always seeks to have God recognized in

the ordinariness of our every day.

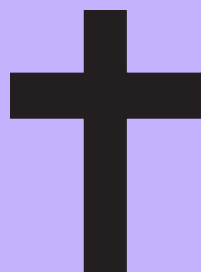
This means that the Church loves to bless everyday things for our use so that we might remember God as we partake in them.

As such, I would like to make the following offer to all in the Saints community: I will happily bless your car during lunch, after school, or any time I happen to be free. Just come to my office to see if I am available.

The short ceremony will bless the whole car including the motor, the steering wheel, the wheels, and the passenger seats. I would especially like to bless your car if you are a brand new driver so that you can begin driving with the Lord's blessing at your side.

What I would ask for is that, in return for this blessing, you make a cash donation to the orphanage. I will gather the monies collected and donate them to our Hogar Fund at the end of the school year.

I hope that in consecrating our driving as a Saints community, we might be more aware of the gift and responsibility that is driving while helping support the children at Casa Hogar at the same time.



Stop the Verbal Litter



Inappropriate language has become increasingly worse on campus.

DailyMail



By Mr. James Horne
PRINCIPAL

It should surprise no one that swearing is part of the vernacular these days. Swearing is everywhere. Musicians, YouTubers, sitcoms, movies, and comedians all make use of the four-letter words that we don't want at the dinner table or when company is over. They are commonplace in our everyday lives. I have heard students claim, "everyone does it," and for the most part, they're right.

Over the years, I have occasionally overheard students and coaches swearing frivolously, and, because it shouldn't go unaddressed, I have stopped to discuss it with them. Many will retort, "It doesn't mean anything," when reprimanded, and that is exactly the point. Our words should mean something! As educated, Christian gentlemen, we should

encourage one another to make use of any of the over one million words in the English language rather than swearing to express our anger, frustration, and displeasure. The use of swear words demonstrates both a lack of civility and a shortfall in linguistic creativity. If we don't address the issue with our brothers, in community, we do them and the world a disservice.

The use of curse words cheapens the men that Saintsmen are growing up to be. Once swear words leave your mouths and impact others, you've broken something that has to be carefully rebuilt. A sense of self-respect.

Foul language can cause cavities in the spirit—in mine and yours. By developing sensitivity to swearing, we can do our part in ridding our campus and the world of verbal litter.

Mr. Igelman Versus the Ironman



By Ty Woods ('23)
STAFF WRITER

Often times, people choose to avoid challenges rather than leaning into them, as choosing the path of least resistance is more comfortable and convenient. Mr. Igelman, however, chooses to face challenges head-on. On April 4, he will participate in a very tough physical competition known as the half-Ironman.

The Ironman 70.3 is a grueling triathlon that takes place on both land and sea beginning at 6:40 am in Oceanside. The race consists of three key components: a 1.18-mile swim, a 55.9-mile bike ride, and a 13-mile run. In the end, the distances total up to over 70 miles of pure grit, hence the name Ironman 70.3.

Some may be wondering why anyone would voluntarily put themselves through such an exhausting physical struggle. For Mr. Igelman, partaking in the strenuous challenge not only benefits his health and tests his abilities, but it also raises money for charity.

The triathlon will raise money for the Challenged Athletes Foundation. This foundation provides opportunities and support to men, women, and children with physical disabilities and challenges, so they can pursue active lifestyles through physical fitness and competitive athletics.

Mr. Igelman acknowledges the importance of sports and competition and hopes to support this cause in the best way that he can. He has set a personal goal of \$2,000, and, although he has already raised about



Mr. Igelman returns to work after a rigorous workout.

Joaquin Torre ('21)

half of that, he is also getting help from two of his friends who will be running the Ironman with him.

The triathlon, like any other serious race, requires both mental discipline and hard training. In order to prepare as best as possible for the race, he has been fine-tuning his running, swimming, and biking.

He was already an avid runner and swimmer, as he has competed in many different races, including a marathon. He was also a lifeguard for many years and, even today, he tries to surf in his downtime. The

area Mr. Igelman has really been focusing on improving the most, however, is his cycling, in which he has the least amount of experience. He has strived to improve his stamina, and he took part in the cycling intercession in order to gain more experience.

Along with vigorous regular exercise, Mr. Igelman is also preparing for the race by improving his nutrition.

“One of my biggest struggles is finding the right foods to sustain myself throughout the race,” Mr. Igelman said.

As a result, he has been experimenting with different gels, protein bars, and drinks throughout his training. Mr. Igelman hopes to find the right balance of foods in order to keep himself energized for the long race ahead. This is an important part of the race because one has to keep themselves sustained throughout the day.

“You can’t go eight hours straight putting out that kind of energy,” Mr. Igelman said.

Mental toughness is also required. He will be using a variety of strategies to focus and stay in the right mindset during the race, including a common one: listening to music. Some of his favorite bands include The Cult, Stone Temple Pilots, and Live. However, his music range also extends to rappers like Eminem and Logic. Even though motivational music is helpful, Mr. Igelman also enjoys the peace and tranquility that is available in nature.

“I can just think clearly in nature,” he said.

These strategies will prove beneficial especially when he needs motivation or focus during the race.

Mr. Igelman has a massive goal: to finish this race. He is also hoping to beat his other friends, but his main goal, for now, is to finish strong after giving it his all. We wish Mr. Igelman the best on his run. Any of those who have the means to donate to his cause can either support him directly or donate to the Challenged Athletes Foundation on their website (challengedathletes.org).

Mr. Pruter: A Coach, a Teacher, and a Friend



Mr. Pruter has been teaching at Saints for eight years.

Joaquin Torre ('21)



By Aidan Lukasik ('21)
STAFF WRITER

One of the Saints community’s most beloved teachers and coaches, Mr. Pruter, has been vital to life on campus for several years. A World History, U.S. History, and intersession racquetball teacher as well as a freshman soccer coach, Mr. Pruter has already made his mark on many of his students.

Mr. Pruter attended St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower, California. During his time in high school, Mr. Pruter formed a friendship with one of his classmates, future Saints teacher and Director of Admissions Mr. Sipper.

Mr. Horne, who taught at St. John Bosco, did not have the privilege of teaching Mr. Pruter, but he recalls him as “an intelligent and energetic student who loved basketball.”

After graduating, he went on to earn his

history degree at the University of California, Los Angeles.

While at UCLA, Mr. Pruter was the team manager for the 1995 championship basketball team. He earned this position because of his participation with his high school team. One day, at a practice, junior varsity star Mr. Pruter was given the chance to work out with the varsity roster. Although it took much hard work and determination, Mr. Pruter was able to work his way up to being a varsity starter. In the hopes that they could lure Bosco’s star athlete to their school, UCLA offered his favorite teammate, Mr. Pruter, a spot as the team manager.

Upon graduating from UCLA and earning a master’s degree from CSU - Long Beach, he returned to his high school alma mater to begin teaching. There, he strengthened relationships with several Saints Alumni, which would eventually bring him to Saints.

During most lunches, Mr. Pruter can be

found in the weight room. Three years ago, Mr. Pruter decided to take advantage of the gym on campus during his free time. What started out with a few guys joining him at lunchtime has turned into a group of about twenty other avid weightlifters who meet and spend their lunch in the weight room on a consistent basis.

Mr. Pruter appreciates the range of individuals who attend lunch lift, from dedicated athletes using their extra time to gain a competitive edge to average Saintsman trying to get in better shape.

Mr. Pruter is also an important contributor to the Saints soccer program. He has served as the JV and Freshman assistant coach in the program for the last seven years. With his deep love for the sport, he is also a vehement supporter of the Tijuana Xolos.

“My favorite part about coaching soccer is the camaraderie,” Mr. Pruter said. “It’s a lot of fun getting to know the players.”

Mr. Pruter’s favorite part of the Saints community is the positive attitude and cheerfulness of boys on campus. Students enjoy Mr. Pruter’s playful banter and friendly personality which make him an easy to talk to and highly approachable faculty member that a wide variety of Saintsmen can rely on.

“Mr. Pruter is a really fun teacher that I know I can always go to for anything,” junior Alfonso Lopez said. “He’s great, and we always learn a lot in his class.”

One of his main activities at Saints is serving as the moderator for the MexUS club. Under Mr. Pruter, the club raised funds to contribute to the recovery of the 2017 earthquake in Mexico City, as well as collecting books for a literacy campaign at the Hogar Infantil de la Guardia Orphanage in Tijuana.

Anyone passing by his classroom might hear the mellow tones of his favorite genre of music: reggae. His love for this unique style of music has led him to begin the beloved tradition of Reggae Fridays in his classes. This allows students to expand their horizons and learn about Rastafarian culture in order to become more culturally aware.

Mr. Pruter wants students to take advantage of the fortunate opportunities that they have at Saints by focusing on their academics and applying themselves, but he also believes that it’s important for students to have fun and enjoy life.

Mr. Pruter has always been an avid reader of *The Augustinian*, and his unique input and feedback have served the newspaper staff well. The Saints community is thankful for Mr. Pruter’s contributions to its success and the extraordinary element he brings to life on campus.



Chaldeans Create a Family at Saints



A group of Chaldeans gather around their beloved priest, Fr. Simon Esshaki.

Courtesy of Joseph Soro ('21)



By Joseph Soro ('21)
GUEST WRITER

You may be asking yourselves, what is a Chaldean, and how is it that this mysterious society of beard-loving Middle Easterners has made its mark on the Saints community? As the years go by, it seems that the Chaldean population here at Saints never wavers. The Iraqi-Catholic community has embraced Saints as an educational experience for their children since the early 2000s.

In general, a Chaldean is defined as a member of the Chaldean Catholic Church based mainly in Iraq. In 1552, there was a great schism in the Church of the East, in which one half of the Church joined the Roman Catholic Faith and the other remained independent for the time being. The resulting rebellion from the Schism chose Shimun VIII Yohannan Sulaqa, a monk at the time, as their leader. In 1553, Sulaqa was consecrated as a bishop and, on April

18th of the same year, he was recognized by Pope Julius III. He was recognized as the leader of an independent Chaldean parish in 1554, which solidifies the birth of the Chaldean Catholic Church.

Unfortunately, due to religious and ethnic persecution coupled with difficult economic conditions in their native regions, many Chaldeans immigrated to the United States, with the first wave landing in Detroit in 1910. Chaldeans then spread throughout the country and, in 1989, a Chaldean community began to form in San Diego with over 50,000 Chaldeans currently living in El Cajon.

Being a Chaldean at Saints is a unique experience that bonds many for life. Coming from a different background than a majority of your school can often be a difficult experience. You may eat different food than your peers or even say modified prayers. These differences could make it challenging to make friends and fully join a school community, however, here

at Saints the community has welcomed the Chaldeans with open arms as they have become an integral part of the Saints family.

"The Saints community is very welcoming and inclusive. I'm able to freely express myself and my Chaldean culture without fear of being judged," junior Nathan Putris said.

Since community, or *unitas*, is a core value at Saints, Chaldeans fit right in as they tend to be from large families.

"Chaldeans are a really strong family-oriented community," Mr. Horne said.

Coming to a new school is often hard, but the existing community of Chaldeans at Saints helps incoming Chaldean students to assimilate to high school more easily. Many members of the community have begun to feel welcomed into Saints by the first week due to the Chaldean upperclassmen who bring them into the family.

"Being Chaldean is a very unique part of my Saints experience. At Saints, I feel that I have been accepted by everyone into

the community, even though I belong to a different background," sophomore Donovan Yousif said.

The Chaldean family at Saints, however, is not limited only to Chaldeans. Many non-Chaldean Saintsmen have a close relationship with the Chaldean community.

Juan Enciso, a junior of Mexican descent, says that he is friends with many of the Chaldeans at Saints.

"The Chaldeans have a very close relationship with their families, making their relationships with their friends even stronger," Enciso said. "They are also very welcoming and accepting of non-Chaldeans into their friend group as they tend to have a hospitable culture."

Although some Chaldeans may choose to remain with their Chaldean group of friends, others do reach out. Thanks to the unique nature of the Saints community, building stronger friendships and bonding with members of different cultures and backgrounds is easy.

Through those friendships, Chaldeans are able to express their culture to the fullest and educate others about Chaldeans, where they come from, and what their culture and lifestyles typically include. The experience of sharing cultures without the fear of being rejected or made fun of is what builds the family ties between Chaldeans at Saints.

The ability to build a Chaldean community at Saints is what makes Saints a top choice for many Chaldean families. Outside of the Saints campus, Chaldean families often debate about what schools are best for their kids, and a major selling point is whether there are other Chaldeans there that they can be friends with. Often times in these conversations, Saints comes up as the best school. The family lifestyle of Chaldeans is why many parents have decided to send their kids to Saints. They know Saints is a great fit for their culture, as they will instantly be welcomed by a strong community of Chaldeans that is constantly growing and evolving.

Playing the Final Notes of the Year



By Patrick O'Leary ('23)
STAFF WRITER

Though no longer playing at the games, Ms. Au and the Saint Augustine Band have been working hard for several important upcoming events this spring. The band will play at a festival and two concerts, as well as provide music for the school play and graduation.

On Friday, March 13, the band will kick off the second semester with a performance at Chula Vista High School at 2:30 PM. They are currently perfecting several difficult songs to play at this music festival. The event is open to the public and free to anyone who wishes to attend. In another few weeks, the school musical *The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee* Contest opens on April 2. The play will be accompanied by a pit orchestra comprised of six musicians; they will play from the band room and pump the music to the stage.

For the past several months, the band has been rehearsing intensely for two major performances: the Spring Concert on April 23 and the Pops Concert on May 21.

"The Spring Concert has more classical music on it; the Pops Concert is going to have music from *Frozen* and just popular songs in general," Ms. Au said.

The two concerts are the last big events for the band during this school year and will be held in the Raymond Performing Arts Center on campus.



Eveylt Yeruuldalger has been hard at work this season.

Andres Armenta ('21)

When the band plays at graduation on May 29, the senior class will sing the Alma Mater together one last time, and the band, too, will give its last performance as a family.

Twelve of the forty-eight band members, including two girls from the Academy of Our Lady of Peace, will graduate this year, leaving an opportunity for underclassmen to fill the void left by the departing seniors. Ms. Au hopes to take in many new musicians next year, both incoming freshmen and returning students alike.

"Band is always open for people to join at any time of the year," Ms. Au said. "The family is always ready to welcome you."

The band has made a huge impact on all students who are lucky enough to be a part of it. In fact, many decide to return to the program and play in the Alumni Band. Alumni Band is an opportunity in the summer Ms. Au provides for former musicians from Saints to return to their alma mater and perform together again. They practice one night a week on Thursdays, and they will likely give a performance in early Au-

gust.

This year, Ms. Au will open Alumni Band up to currently enrolled students, giving younger performers a chance to play with and learn from veteran musicians. It is an especially valuable opportunity for the eleven first-year band participants as they prepare to take on a greater leadership role in the coming 2020-2021 school year.

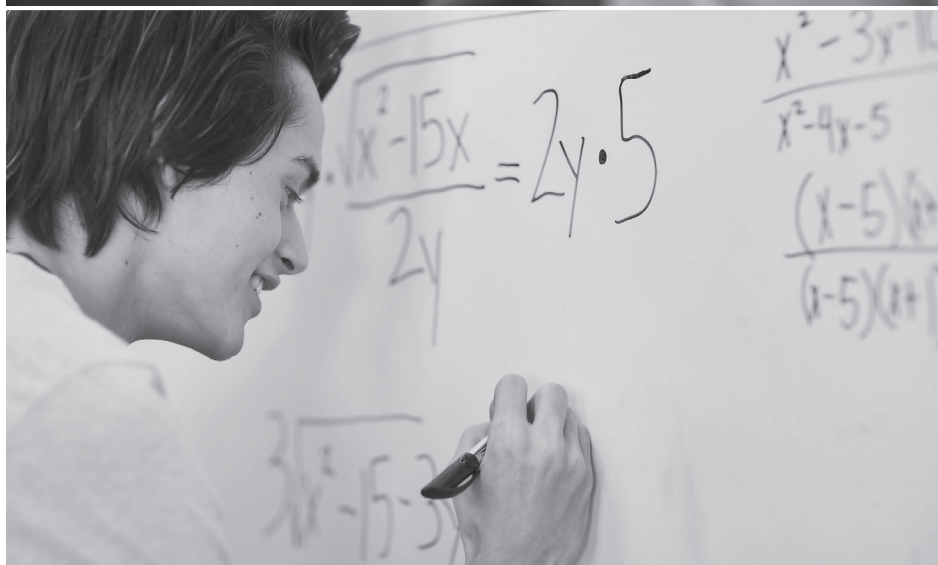
"This year I literally just wanted everyone to have fun while playing music and also increasing everyone's skill ability on different types of music," Ms. Au said.

Joining band has many benefits apart from simply increasing one's own musical talents, according to the band members.

"Band is a family that is an amazing way to make new friends," freshman Luis Gonzalez said. "It is fun and, as someone learning to read sheet music, everyone is very helpful."

Ms. Au says that she is always willing to write college letters of recommendation for her dedicated pupils. In fact, some of her students have even decided to continue playing music in college, including senior trombonist Samuel Wilhelm, who recently auditioned at St. Olaf College's music school in Minnesota.

Whether you intend to pursue a career in music or are just interested in trying something new, Ms. Au and her merry band of talented musicians are always excited to welcome any newcomers. It's never too late to join!



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An Open Letter to Dr. Graeme



By Graeme
Morland-Tellez ('21)
EDITOR

Dear Dr. Graeme,

Something frightening is occurring. I got a girlfriend on Valentine's Day, and we only have been talking through online messages, as every normal couple would. Now, a couple of weeks after we began our relationship, she wants to actually meet and talk in person. Is this what a "date" is? Moreover (and much worse), I have assumed the worst: she may want to hold hands and hug during our "date." I have truly gotten myself into an abysmal situation, and I have not the slightest idea of what to do. Should I end the relationship on account of her terrifying advances? Or, should I accept the consequence of the relationship, and endure the suffering of human contact?

Please help,
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous-

Although it is not my position to unleash upon you a tirade for your extremely rash decision of getting into a relationship, I shall briefly do so anyway. Shame on you. Getting a girlfriend disobeys nearly every law that I have established. Have you forgotten the cardinal ideal which professes that high school love is superficial, debased, and fake? Evidently, you have. However, worry not, I will attempt to resolve the situation in which you find yourself.

The reasoning behind your girlfriend's sudden and uncalled-for desire to meet in person remains a mystery both to myself and the entire medical community. A likely hypothesis is that a disease is quickly spreading, which only affects girls and causes them to desire personal and emotional relationships, rather than digital ones. This widespread disease is unknown and dangerous, and it should be the only epidemic subject to current medical research.

As to your assumed definition of a "date" as a simple "meeting in which one talks in person," it is much more complicated and extreme than that. A "date" is an event in which you are forced to regress to crude forms of chivalry, all for the purpose of courting a female and advancing a superficial relationship.

During the date, you will be forced to endure extreme and strenuous tasks, including opening doors and pulling out



Dr. Graeme Morland-Tellez is a certified love doctor.

Joaquin Torre ('21)

chairs, making eye contact and engaging in conversation (throughout the entirety of the date), and terrifyingly, planning future dates just to torture yourself with such obligations again and again. But the worst has yet to come. As you mentioned, there might be a time when you are forced to hug, hold hands, or, horrifyingly, both. And it is with this that I draw the line. In essence, the torture associated with holding hands and hugging is comparable to that of listening to Cardi B. or being held in Guantanamo Bay.

As to answering the question of what you should do in your situation, I suggest that you attend the date and, while doing so, abide by methods of nonconformity and break the cycle. Open the door very slightly, and quickly slide through it yourself, thus leaving it to shut right afterward without letting her in. At the restaurant, don't pull out a chair for her. Instead, tell the restaurant host that you will be dining alone, and leave your date to find herself a seat. Don't make eye contact or engage in lengthy conversations. Instead, quickly dart your eyes around the restaurant and try to look at everything but her eyes, all the while giving only one-word responses to her questions.

Now, in the event that any advances are made to attempt to hug you or hold your hand, there is one foolproof escape that has yet to fail: crying. Crying will quickly ward off any unnecessary advances and successfully assist you in nearly any situation, especially one involving holding hands and hugging. If you find trouble crying on command, simply think of anything extremely sad, like the 49ers' loss in the

Super Bowl or the song Shallow by Lady Gaga. Although crying is often perceived as destructive to the superficial image of masculinity, it really isn't. In fact, recall the quote from Helen Keller, "Even faucets made from the strongest steel sometimes have to let out some water."

Anonymous, as I conclude my response to you, I hope that I have helped you in some way and alleviated your struggle. As to the rest of my readers — I encourage you to send forth your letters as my expertise is always available. And, if there is one thing you absolutely must remember from all of this, it is "antisocial today, live a new day."

With love,
Dr. Graeme, Ph.D

► NEW CLASSES

Continued from Page 3

in room 108, where the old band room was. The Maker Space will include many power tools, workbenches, and other items that the science classes can use for their benefit. The Maker Space may also harbor a 3D printer, a powerful and intriguing device that can be useful for many practical reasons, but this cutting-edge piece of technology is yet to be confirmed.

As the student body grows and progresses, Saints will continue to add and expand the number of available courses in order to diversify the curriculum. Many Saintsmen will reap the benefits of these new additions to the curriculum, and these classes will allow students to become more intellectually competent young men who are prepared to participate in the changing world, just as the ISOs state.

► AFGHANISTAN

Continued from Page 2

metrics. We tried using troop numbers trained, violence levels, control of territory and none of it painted an accurate picture. The metrics were always manipulated for the duration of the war." a senior National Security Council official said.

The officials and generals would lie to themselves and the public to make it appear that the United States was making progress in a failing war in Afghanistan. The result is 157,000 people that have been killed in the war, most of them being the inept Afghan security forces (64,000), Afghan civilians (43,000), and Taliban fighters (42,000). Another 4,000 US contractors and 2,300 US troops were also killed in the war.

Progress is finally being made to get the United States out of this disastrous war. Recently, the United States and the Taliban signed a deal aimed at ending the war with Afghanistan by withdrawing around 4,400 troops in the next couple of months and withdrawing the remaining troops over the next 14 months. The agreement is contingent upon the Taliban renouncing terrorism and Al-Qaeda. Talks for a permanent ceasefire are scheduled for March, and there is hope that the tumultuous 18-year-long war will finally come to an end.

► SCOIR

Continued from Page 3

planning than Naviance. The accessibility of the platform allows Saintsmen to use SCOIR to their advantage, as SCOIR attaches links and documents to their pages and tabs to allow students quick access to other tools. SCOIR, which is also offered in the form of an app for mobile devices, takes away the difficulty of searching for specific pages or features by giving users all they need on one page.

Although the current seniors will complete their college application cycle on Naviance, the class of 2021 will be the first to go forward with their college search and application process through SCOIR. Based on the myriad of new features and the useful layout of SCOIR, the counseling staff believes that it will be more effective in assisting the students.

"We haven't been through an application cycle yet, but we like what we've seen so far," Dr. Rey said. "It will be a new experience for all of us, but we're looking forward to using SCOIR."

SCOIR is the future of college preparation at Saints. Not only does Saints see the benefit and advantages of the new platform. The Saints counseling staff has also been working with the OLP counseling staff to help switch their system from Naviance to SCOIR as well. Saintsmen are encouraged to utilize this new platform to help plan and prepare for life beyond high school.

The Return from Intersession

By Matthew Cross ('21)

