

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

Issue 4

May 24, 2021

St. Augustine High School

Reaching the Heights of Sporting Success



By Liam Haskett ('22)
STAFF WRITER

The Saints Super Season is now fully underway! After months of never ending debate over whether or not sports would return, they have finally made it back and are now in full swing.

The Super Season was kicked off by our football team. After a Week 1 victory over Helix, Saints rolled over Madison by a score of 24-7 to move to 2-0 on the year. Unfortunately, that's when the injury bug bit the Saints, forcing multiple players out of their usual positions, and they dropped their final two games of the year to Cathedral and Lincoln.

Plagued by injuries, linebacker junior Gracen Halton was forced to play running back and the freshman backup quarterback, Iosefa Letuli, had to come in after senior Richard Colmenero III was injured against Lincoln.

Baseball enjoyed more success, beginning a dominant campaign. They ripped off a string of impressive victories as they marched to wins in the Bill Whittaker Classic and the Lions Tournament.

After an intense extra-inning affair against San Marcos had to be called a tie due to darkness, the championship showdown was sure to deliver a high-pressure game. Junior Chaz McRoberts earned the start and the win, giving up three earned runs through four innings of work.

Sinjon Bobolia and Trevor Fox slammed the door on the Knights, as the bats came alive, pounding out 13 hits and scoring 10 runs, with senior Ariel Armas



The Saints lacrosse team poses for a group photo after a game.

Joaquin Torre ('21)

and junior Domenic Carini both driving in multiple runs.

The Saints then rolled through the Lions Tournament, going 4-0 behind strong pitching and a potent offense. Perhaps the surprise of the year came against Canyon Crest, when Trevor Fox, Jakob Christian, and MJ Sweeney hit back-to-back-to-back home runs to propel the team to victory.

Saints entered league play with a scorching 13-2-1 record. They continued on mercilessly, sweeping Scripps Ranch in dramatic fashion with a come-from-behind

victory in which they gave up five first-inning runs. Saints clawed back behind a career day from Armas, who hit a home run, a triple, and drove in three runs in addition to nailing multiple runners on the bases. They rolled through Cathedral Catholic, sweeping the three-game set, including two on the road.

A particularly intense showdown occurred at Whittaker Field on March 12, as Saints fell behind 2-0 in the first inning before junior Manny Butler came in out of the bullpen and changed the momentum of

the game with a nine-strikeout effort aided by a spectacular catch in center field from Luke Rhee. This set the stage for a dramatic comeback led by Ariel Armas, whose solo home run in the fourth and two-run shot in the sixth provided all the run support for Sinjon Bobolia to slam the door on the Dons.

The soccer team is also having a great season, winning the City-Western league title with a 6-1-1 record to finish their regular season with a 10-1-1 overall record. SEE SPORTS, pg. 11

Entering the Virtual Arena: ESports Comes to Saints



By Joseph Selfani ('21)
EDITOR

The pandemic has brought about the rise of online gaming and competition, with the gaming industry as a whole crossing the \$100 billion valuation, and companies like Activision-Blizzard and Electronic Arts surpassing \$70 billion and \$40 billion respectively.

As a result, eSports as a subdivision of the gaming industry pulled in \$1.2 billion in revenue in 2020 and is expected to grow to \$1.8 billion in 2022 with many more billions of dollars in investment.

Now that I have used my AP Economics education to show the growth of the gaming and eSports industry, it is obvious that competitive gaming is bound to garner attention from colleges. To date, about 180 colleges now recruit and give scholarships for eSports including UC Irvine, University of Southern California, and Ohio State University.

With the rise of collegiate eSports, it is only a matter of time before the competition trickles down to high schools. Recently, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) put forth an initiative in 2019 to bring Varsity eSports to high schools, arguing that “High schools, colleges, and businesses have been searching for ways to further entice and engage students in STEM subjects. Due to the computational,

technological, and strategic nature of e-sports, students who engage in esports are much more likely to pursue STEM fields.”

In addition, CIF confirms the data of eSports growing as an industry with many new career opportunities, stating, “Esports is a rapidly growing industry. Apart from being a pro player, many new jobs are being created: streaming, production, programming and other tech opportunities. These are all fields in which students can gain exposure, experience and leadership opportunities prior to graduation through leveraging their esports experiences.”

On top of that, many younger students are outperforming adult professional Twitch streamers, with a famous example being a 16-year-old high school student winning the \$3 million grand prize for the Fortnite World Cup, which had over \$30 million in prizes. In addition, the Saints eSports club participated in multiple tournaments hosted by the High School eSports League in which the top prize was \$30,000 in scholarships. Our Counter-Strike: Global Offensive team earned seventh place out of over 400 high schools in 2020. Colleges can actually scout these matches and recruit players remotely.

All these examples show the rise in competitive gaming in high schools and the benefit they hold for students. As a result, principal Mr. Horne desired to put Saints ahead with an investment into an



The Saints eSports lab is now open for students.

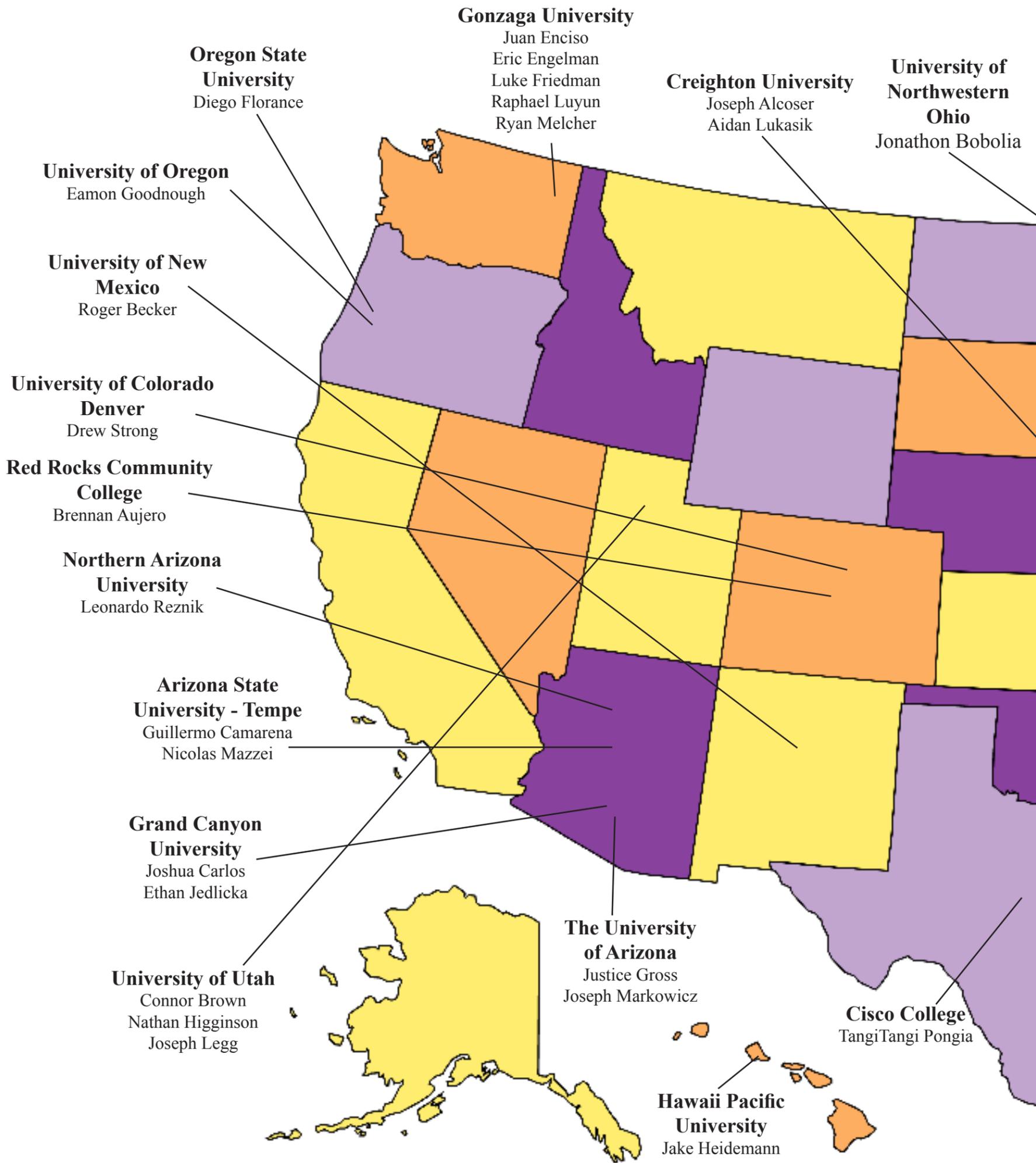
Joaquin Torre ('21)

eSports lab to jump-start the Saints Varsity eSports program. The budget for the lab was \$17,000, in which a team led by myself, Mr. Igelman, and junior Jason Halabo allocated the funds to purchase eight desktop computers equipped with the latest components despite a worldwide shortage, all the peripherals, a TV donated by Jason Halabo, a Nintendo Switch with two controllers, an Amazon Echo with Echo-activated lights, eight gaming chairs from

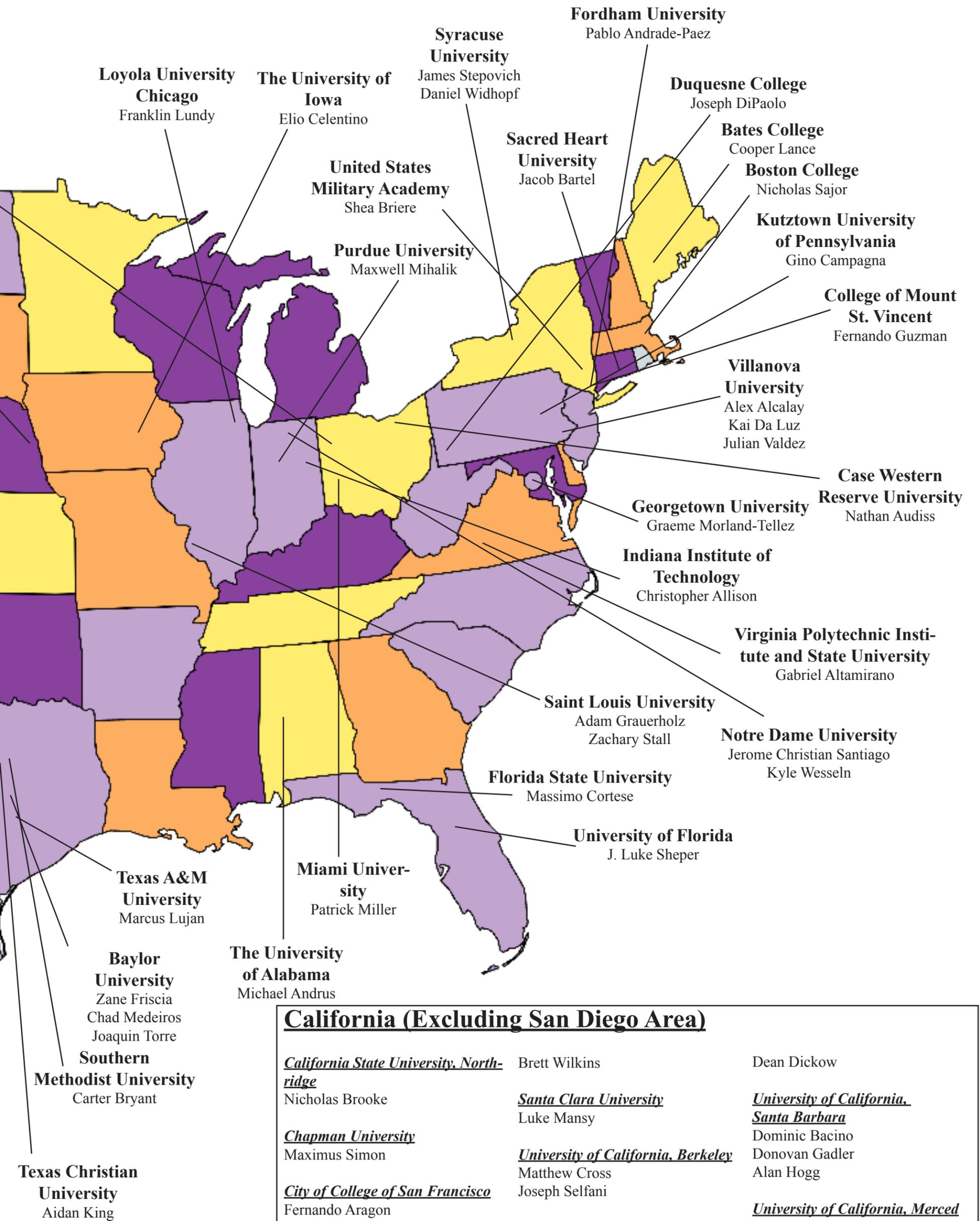
Mr. Horne and Mr. DeRieux, and six Xbox controllers.

The eSports Lab will unlock many opportunities for Saints to host tournaments, and it is the first high school in San Diego to have a thriving lab and eSports program. Over the course of March and April, St. Augustine High School provided a Parochial Middle School eSports tournament to almost 120 students from over eight

SEE ESPORTS, pg. 11



<u>San Diego Area</u>			
<u>California State University, San Marcos</u> Jakob Christian Paolo Madrigal Anthony Mezzacappa Matt Parada Charles Sturtevant Davyn Waldapfel Kyle Wyborney	<u>San Diego Mesa College</u> Emilio Aguilar Gonzalez Juan Arellano Pablo Casas Richard Colmenero III Michael Farrell Derek Le Edelberto Medina George Mikan Ryan Mouritzen Simon Somohano George Wenhe Estevan Paredes Andres Reynoso Diego Rivera	<u>Southwestern College</u> Kieran Archer Giancarlo Blanco Sergio Castrillon Luis Juvera Gabriel Morales Alejandro Soler Eric Venzor Alfonso Lopez	Ricardo Franco Christian Gaeta-Fraga Gavin Kassab Luis Lavat Archie Lenore Rodrigo Morfin Rodriguez Kevin Nunez Austin Rones Tobey Salem Malcolm Williams
<u>Grossmont College</u> Torin Mooney	<u>San Diego State University</u> Moises Bayliss Jose Castro Mayardona Daniel Trevor Haliburton Randall Hild Hector Molina	<u>University of California, San Diego</u> Akira Wolfe Ian DeGrood Gary Mansour Matthew Pope Nathaneal Putris Nolan Steinbuch	<u>Manhattan Community College</u> Mario Hernandez
<u>Point Loma Nazarene University</u> Eveylt Yeruuldelger Hunter Miller Richard Cesena Damien Bingham Evan Gerardo		<u>University of San Diego</u> Ariel Armas Emilio De La Herran Damien DeLaPena	<u>San Diego City College</u> Jarrel Christian Corpus Joshua De la Cruz David Gurrola
			<u>Miramar College</u> Charlie Gehler



Abroad

Technologico de Monterrey (Mexico)
 Diego Fimbres
 Fausta Gallego
 Alfredo Gutierrez-Fimbres

California (Excluding San Diego Area)		
<u>California State University, Northridge</u> Nicholas Brooke	Brett Wilkins	Dean Dickow
<u>Chapman University</u> Maximus Simon	<u>Santa Clara University</u> Luke Mansy	<u>University of California, Santa Barbara</u> Dominic Bacino
<u>City of College of San Francisco</u> Fernando Aragon	<u>University of California, Berkeley</u> Matthew Cross Joseph Selfani	Donovan Gadler Alan Hogg
<u>Claremont McKenna College</u> Richard Brutto	<u>University of California, Davis</u> Jack Sandmeyer Maximilian Wright	<u>University of California, Merced</u> Ryan Schwerdtfeger
<u>Loyola Marymount University</u> Santiago De La Torre Paul Ledesma	<u>University of California, Irvine</u> Leuck Hammes Jacob Odle Noah Zamora	<u>University of Southern California</u> Santiago Miret Joseph Soro Jakob Alon Tatoy
<u>MiraCosta College</u> Luke Hobrock	<u>University of California, Los Angeles</u> Angel Perez Alexander Kotnik	<u>Woodbury University</u> Noah Munoz
<u>Palomar College</u> Dominic Pacheco		

Colleges & Vaccines: To Mandate or Not to Mandate



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

In the early days of this pandemic, the mass exodus of students from college campuses to the reality of their hometown lives was among the many reported tragedies. Trading in their college experience for a health emergency like they had never experienced before, these students fell victim to their unfortunate circumstances in that they were deprived of enjoying their college education to the fullest extent. However, with over half of the United States having received at least one dose of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, many of these students are eager to leave the nest once again.

Since the conception of a potential vaccine, “herd immunity” has been widely discussed in order to encourage a meaningful push towards full inoculation. In an effort to experience some degree of normalcy while protecting their campuses and furthering these public health goals, many colleges and universities across the United States have announced new vaccine mandates that will take effect in the fall. Under such regulations, students participating in in-person classes or taking advantage of on-campus housing would be required to receive one of the COVID-19 vaccines, barring “limited medical and religious exemptions,” according to a notice from the University of California Board of Regents issued on April 22.

Despite the crowds of cheering students eager to return, the problem with such a policy lies in the approval of the COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. Thanks to this designation by the Food and Drug Administration, public universities may find their



The University of Florida is one of many schools with vaccine sites. *USA Today*

hands tied when it comes to vaccine mandates. Because none of the existing vaccines have received full approval as of this time, public health officials fear that baiting those who have held out against the vaccine thus far may prove impossible.

“The vaccine requirements proposed by the University of California and California State University systems came with a notable caveat: They will only take effect if the Food and Drug Administration gives full approval to one of the existing vaccines, something not guaranteed to happen by the fall,” wrote Michael Burke, a reporter and student success specialist. “The vaccine requirements at some private universities,

including Chapman and the University of Southern California, also came with that caveat.”

Burke, who has specialized in the UC and CSU systems during their COVID-19 response, was also careful to point out that FDA approval is not necessarily required for a university to issue a vaccine mandate. Because such a circumstance has not arisen in recent history, both of these California university systems are erring on the side of caution and stopping short of solidifying such plans.

“It’s not something that is set in stone. We don’t have a crystal ball, and we don’t know when that’s going to happen,” said

Michael Uhlenkamp, a representative of the CSU system.

With a national dilemma at stake, many university systems are expected to leave such decisions up to individual campuses. Rather than taking a uniform approach, some education specialists, including the Association of American Colleges and Universities, believe that a more specialized system would prevent larger, high-risk universities from hindering the reopening of safer campuses.

Jessica Dickler, a CNBC reporter, addressed these so-called “high-risk” campuses from the perspective of social events, which will undoubtedly cause major spikes if students are not fully vaccinated.

“Across the country, campuses struggled to remain open over the last year as fraternities, sororities and off-campus parties drove sudden spikes in coronavirus cases among undergraduates,” she wrote. “Meanwhile, students overwhelmingly declared remote school a mediocre substitute for being in the classroom.”

Despite varied opinions about whether or not vaccine mandates are an equitable and efficient way for universities to combat the spread of the coronavirus, it is evident that rising vaccination rates can only aid in this journey back to school. As was the case with many university housing policies in 2020, these vaccination policies are still hazy and unfixed. In the coming months, public health officials and university administrators alike will be forced to ask themselves whether this requirement is a potential solution to a modern problem or an utter non-starter, destined to decay with a red sticker reading, “Emergency Use Only.”

Education and Vaccination Mobilize America



By Kai da Luz ('21)
EDITOR

As we reach the end of our school year and the conclusion of high school for my fellow seniors, we also have begun to wave adieu to the menace of 2020—COVID-19. After over a year, the foe that has brought us blood, toil, tears, and sweat is finally giving some ground. Emerging from our trenches of hand sanitizer and toilet paper, we rally behind our noble heroine leading the charge, the vaccine!

While it is great to finally see inklings of normalcy in our country, there have been many roadblocks and some controversy surrounding the vaccine. A lot of this has arisen from the complications with vaccines such as Britain’s AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. More complications for a speedy vaccination were derived from the subzero temperatures the vaccine needed to be stored at early on.

The coronavirus has had such a dominant effect on our lives in the past year, and many resources have been dedicated to educating the public about the nature of the virus and how to protect oneself from it. Once the vaccine became readily available, these resources shifted their efforts to the task of getting everyone vaccinated quickly. In doing so, however, many Americans are not fully aware of the mechanism of the vaccine, or of the precautions needed to be taken in order to limit one’s side effects.

At *The Augustinian*, we thought that we’d do our part in rectifying this shortcoming. We will take a brief look at how the various COVID-19 vaccines work, why Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca have met complications with blood clots, and how to equip your body and immune system well to minimize negative side effects.

The most common vaccines are made with a live and weak form of the virus, an inactive virus, or even with a manufactured virus. They serve the purpose of exposing your body to the virus, and begin the process



of creating antibodies. This purpose is crucial because the body can take several weeks to produce antibodies on its own when infected with a virus. The COVID-19 vaccine is no different. Though the COVID-19 vaccines differ, they all leave the patient with a supply of memory T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes that essentially store the antibody makeup of the virus for the future.

With the race to develop a vaccine, numerous companies have stepped forward, synthesizing their own versions of a COVID-19 vaccine. The most common in America are Pfizer and Moderna, and they require two shots. Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 vaccine only requires one shot. Johnson & Johnson has only recently been approved for continued use, as the vaccine has been reported to cause blood clots, similarly to the AstraZeneca vaccine in the UK. Both of the vaccines can reduce the platelet count in your blood, which leaves the door open for

clotting. Though the association between J&J and blood clots has dominated the news, the cases themselves occur infrequently and at an extremely low rate. According to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), only 28 cases in which the J&J vaccine could have caused clotting exist. This sample is out of 8.7 million total administrations of the J&J vaccine. To put this in perspective, this boils down to a 0.0003% chance that receiving the vaccine will result in a blood clot. In addition, the majority of the cases that reported blood clotting after receiving the J&J vaccine concerned pregnant women or women taking oral contraceptives. A person who falls into this category should choose Pfizer or Moderna over other vaccines, but for the majority of the population, all of the vaccines are useful in better equipping your body in the fight against COVID-19.

Getting vaccinated nowadays can be as easy as setting up a same day appointment at

your local CVS Pharmacy, however there are still some steps that should be taken to minimize the possible negative side effects of the vaccines. It is important to hydrate before and after the vaccine, keeping your water supply and electrolytes high. The CDC also recommends that you get ample sleep the night before the vaccine. Essentially, you want to keep your immune system healthy so your body is fully equipped to deal with the vaccine.

The fact that we have a vaccine at all at this point is nothing short of a medical marvel. According to the New York State Department of Health, it usually takes anywhere from 10 to 15 years before a vaccine is released to the public after research has begun. No matter where you stand politically or philosophically, there is no doubt that all of the notable vaccines reduce the effects of COVID-19 and helps to protect those at risk in our society. After a year of darkness, isn’t that all we can really ask for?

The Long-Awaited Return of Senior Events



The Senior class' prom dinner was on the rooftop basketball court. Courtesy of ASB

By Angelo Riodique ('22)
STAFF WRITER

At Saints, senior year has always been associated with fun and memorable events that alumni will look back on nostalgically for years to come. During the pandemic, many of these events disappeared from the horizon, but as restrictions begin to wane, seniors and underclassmen alike move to catch up on some of the end of the year events in an effort to end this school year on a high note. This past semester, the ASB has collaborated with the administration behind the scenes to create an end-of-the-year schedule reminiscent of normal times.

This semester, the seniors in particular have been satisfied with the return of events such as senior prom, the mother-son brunch, and graduation. The mother-son brunch took place on the beach at the Bahia Resort in Pacific Beach on a beautiful day, allowing Saintsmen and their mothers to have a nice breakfast and enjoy each other's company. It was also the largest event that the resort had hosted since the pandemic hit.

"My biggest takeaway from the brunch was the realization that I'm going to be going off to college in three months, and I won't have my mom there to help me with daily tasks," senior Elio Celenino said.

THE AUGUSTINIAN

Angel Perez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Graeme Morland-Tellez
MANAGING EDITOR

Kai da Luz
EDITOR

Mr. Vladimir Bachynsky
MODERATOR

Manny Butler
EDITOR

Joseph Selfani
EDITOR

Joaquin Torre
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Prom had to be hosted on campus this year because local hotels were unwilling or unable to accommodate such a large group due to pandemic restrictions. A catered dinner of chicken, lasagna, pastries, salad, and potatoes was served to the seniors on the upper basketball courts before the dance, which took place inside the gym. Upon entering the dance, Saintsmen and their dates could have their pictures taken on the red carpet. The interior was decked out with festive decorations, colored lights, and a massive chandelier, and the commons lobby featured a movie lounge, complete with refreshments, a photo booth, and a television playing classic Hollywood films. "We're excited for our seniors to have the event and to provide them with an opportunity that they missed out on," said Mr. Lamerato.

The seniors had a fantastic time at prom, and they especially loved the live musical performance on the rooftop.

Graduation has returned with new protocols to accommodate COVID-19 guidelines. Changes to the ceremony include limiting attendance to the immediate

family of the graduating class, the faculty, ASB, and Loyal Sons to guide the graduates' families. There will also be a live stream for those who are unable to attend in person.

"I'm looking forward to seeing all of my brothers there in unity, and I can't wait to celebrate with them before we part ways," senior Jarrel Corpus said. The students are grateful for the hard work and dedication of the Saints faculty and staff so that these events can run smoothly. "I'm so thankful to have an administration that has put students first in all of their efforts," Mr. Osberg said.

In a time when many schools are shut down and other in-person events have become non-existent, it is important to take the time to thank all the teachers and administrators that made it possible for Saints to enjoy the face-to-face company of our brothers. After a tumultuous year, seniors are excited and grateful for the return to normal in their final days at Saints.

New Honors Courses Come to Saints

By Griffin Cappiolo ('24)
STAFF WRITER

As the Saints community has continued to evolve into a diverse community in which all members can develop their strengths and explore new creative outlets, the administration has announced the implementation of two new courses with this very goal in mind.

For the first time, Saint Augustine High School will be offering two brand new Honors classes in the Visual and Performing Arts for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year: Honors Yearbook, taught by Mr. Osberg, and Honors Jazz Band, taught by Ms. Au. These classes will provide Saintsmen with more advanced opportunities in the field of the Visual and Performing Arts.

Led by Mr. Osberg, students who participate in Honors Yearbook will work as student editors of the school yearbook. They will brainstorm, develop a blueprint for the yearbook, as well as plan for deadlines that will help them streamline the process. These Honors students will gain the opportunity to lead and empower other students, process multiple solutions to a given problem, and achieve their goal of producing a yearbook for all students to enjoy.

The students that choose to participate in the Honors Yearbook will have the same responsibilities as students in other Honors classes, so they will be graded on a weighted scale as a reward for their efforts. However, in order for students to participate in Honors Year-

book, they must first have completed at least a year of Yearbook. This will provide them with the experience necessary to lead a team of students in creating the school yearbook.

On another note, Benedetto Grondona, a Saints junior and a current member of the jazz band, is excited about the new opportunity that Honors Jazz Band presents.

"Originally, I thought the goal of the class was to learn about jazz theory, but it really is so much more than that," he said. "We've done a transcription, which is just writing out a solo by ear, and much more."

With the guidance of Ms. Au, students will analyze and perform advanced pieces, as well as put a strong emphasis on improvisation. They will study the history of jazz music, from its development and birth, to the influences it has on modern music.

"I am especially excited for the original jazz composition that we will get to write," Grondona said. "We get to compose and eventually perform our very own jazz piece inspired by everything that we will learn throughout the year."

During the course of the year, professional musicians and college educators with a background of experience in jazz will visit the class. They will serve as guest lecturers, clinicians, and sources of guidance and wisdom to the students. They will help to refine the performances of the students, as well as present various career possibilities in the world of music and jazz.



The Saints curriculum guide (pictured) features two new honors courses. sahs.org

To be accepted into the Honors Jazz Band, a student needs to have at least two years of experience in the 32nd Street Jazz Band, as well as pass an oral exam and perform an audition for the instructor, Ms. Au.

Similarly to Honors Yearbook, Hon-

ors Jazz Band is graded as a weighted class due to the rigorous curriculum. These classes fulfill the graduation requirement for a year of a class in the Visual and Performing Arts, and provide an advanced option for those students pur-

SEE CLASSES, pg. 11

Ending the Silence: A Response to March Madness



By Graeme Morland-Tellez ('21)
EDITOR

It has come to my attention that my previous article has faced severe scrutiny and criticism, not only by “sore loser” faculty members, but by my own peers alike. Many faculty members have come up to my face and publicly denounced my article, simultaneously citing personal discontent and inciting my own humiliation. This is my reaction to such a public uproar and my subsequent apology to the dissatisfied masses. Well, here it goes. I would like to take the time and the wordspace of this article to sincerely apologize to ABSOLUTELY NOBODY.

Last issue, I did not write an article. No. I produced a work of art, a beautiful

testimony reminiscent of pure honesty and verifiable reflection. I wrote the “Teacher March Madness” article, a piece that apparently was not only controversial, but one that I defend with all of my written and verbal might.

To the faculty members unhappy with their performance in the tournament, might I offer a few words of advice and consolation. Do you think your loss in the tournament was unfair? Do you think you should have won your matchup? Well, the solution is quite simple. Find the teacher who beat you out and simply challenge them to a duel in real life. If you even want to be professional about it and avoid engaging in fisticuffs on campus, ask them to meet at Morley Field after work hours. What? Oh, you no longer think you unfairly lost? It is no longer fun and games when you have to walk up to Daddy or Mr. Ozdowski and ask them to fight at Morley, huh? It is CRAZY

how that works.

To the faculty members upset with their lack of appearance in the tournament (ahem ahem Mr. Martinez), it was completely personal and intentional. I am only joking. The maximum number of participants allowed on the free version of the tournament bracket app that I used was 32. It was extremely difficult cutting down the participant pool, and I legitimately wish that I could have included more teachers. Obviously money is not a problem for me, but I would rather financially contribute to my Roth IRA and sports betting career than a trashy, glitchy tournament bracket website. Although I do feel badly, the odds of one of the missing teachers winning it all are synchronous to my apparent odds of getting accepted into Duke (Don’t worry, I didn’t accept them pesky Blue Devils either).

To my peers who think they are all

of a sudden capable of writing articles for *The Augustinian*, you are welcome to stop by Room 318 on Tuesdays at lunch to get an article assignment or to discuss some of your personal sentiments with me. That invitation is also open to any faculty members who are still pouting. To my peers who believe in the conspiracy that Mr. Ozdowski’s victory was a loud cry for academic attention, or extra points, that is so incredibly incorrect. I legitimately believe that Mr. Ozdowski would reign victorious. Secondly, you obviously do not know that the likelihood of Mr. Ozdowski’s grace of free points for some trivial article is virtually nonexistent. Finally, I do not need any extra help—that’s why God made Calcchat and a TI-nSpire.

In light of such a pissy public display of appreciation, I am now announcing that there is a new winner of the Saints March Madness bracket, and that winner is none other than ME. I have won. I am victorious. Think about it, you have all allowed a lanky wisecrack like me to cause so much tension and distress amongst yourselves. I have been able to invade everyone’s mindspace and evoke feelings of anger and frustration. I feel like the modern-day Joker of the Saints campus (Heath Ledger, definitely not Joaquin Phoenix). This was all a social experiment and everyone failed—I really recommend that you all work on your mental fortitude for the future.

As current champion of the Saints March Madness Tournament, I would like to thank all of the runner-ups (shoutout to Mr. Ozdowski, Mrs. Crachy, and Daddy), and I hope that someone is able to dethrone me in a year’s time. However, now knowing the emotional capacity of this campus, that seems relatively unlikely.



Moving Forward with Hope and Thanks



By President Hearn
CONTRIBUTOR

As one of the most tumultuous years in the history of Saints begins winding down, the administration is grateful for the community staying the course with us. There have been many adjustments and new schedules that have been annoying to all of us as we have proceeded. The road we chose to take was the more difficult—it was one that might have ignited controversy and weakened the community.

On behalf of the administration, thank you for your trust and confidence in our ability to balance health issues along with educational issues. We owe a great deal of gratitude for your support as we traveled along a very lonely stretch of road we created as we moved forward. We knew some parents, faculty, and staff had strong contrary positions regarding our direction, but we also knew there was trust among all members of our community that the Board of Directors and administration would successfully navigate the troubled waters of the pandemic. In reflecting on the year, I am extremely proud of our Board of Directors and the administration for placing our students first and positioning Saints to safeguard everyone’s health while offering “in-person” education to our boys.

Without the parent community behind our direction, we would have floundered and allowed the controversy to divide us. Your belief in our core values of Community, Truth, and Love have held us together. On behalf of the staff, faculty, and administration, we offer our appreciation.



The first indoor mass of the year was a major milestone in the return to normalcy.

You have allowed us to thrive during trying times. Our strength is our unity of purpose—built around our faith, the encouragement of our teachers for their students, and the strong relationships created throughout the community. However, due to the pandemic, we have yet to meet the parents from this year’s freshman class.

The normal ways of ensuring the development of friendship with the parent community was greatly compromised this year. Every event that is normally calendared was changed into a Zoom meeting or a video. Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA, Saints’ chaplain, during one of the countless Zoom meetings we experienced this year stated, “We are at our best when

we are face-to-face and heart-to-heart.” I wrote the wording down immediately as I knew this phrase captures the ethos of our school.

Our energy in the coming months will get back to the Augustinian way of developing community—a way that encourages unity of purpose and achievement. Although I do not want to speak for others, I think we are at our best when we are basking in the warm love of Jesus as experienced through our friendships with one another. It is in the glow of this light that we become who we were created to be. To be our true authentic selves. Like you, our administration, faculty, and staff want to get back to seeing you, laughing

with you, helping with family problems and your sons’ issues—face-to-face and heart-to-heart. My office is on the south side of St. Augustine Commons.

You will find signage directing you to a small office of suites on the Terrace Level of the building. I encourage you to walk up the steps and drop by to introduce yourselves to me, Casey Callery, the Director of Advancement, and Chris Cashman, the Director of Alumni. Holly Ferrari, the Administrative Assistant, primarily responsible for recording gifts to the school and running Halo Joe’s Store works in the main office in Vasey Hall. We look forward to meeting all of you in the near future.

Courtesy of ASB

Fighting the Stigma Against the AAPI Community



By Patrick O'Leary ('23)
EDITOR

As the United States rolls out COVID-19 vaccines by the millions, an end is finally in sight for the coronavirus pandemic. However, a new epidemic has taken a hold on America: from 2020 to 2021, hate crimes targeting Asian-Americans have risen by 169 percent in America's 15 largest cities.

On March 16, 21-year-old Robert Long entered a spa at Young's Asian Massage in Acworth, Georgia, several minutes before 5 PM. He opened fire on the occupants, killing four and wounding one. Less than an hour later, he murdered three more at the Golden Massage Spa and one more at the Aroma Spa across the street. Six of the eight victims were Asian women.

The Atlanta shootings were just one example of racially motivated hate crime directed towards Asian-Americans over the last two years. In February, Air Force veteran Denny Kim was assaulted with anti-Asian slurs and physically attacked, suffering a black eye and broken nose while walking home in Los Angeles. In April, a woman was hospitalized after a man approached her, struck her in the face, and then fled the scene, and in May, two Asian women were attacked by a woman wielding a hammer in Manhattan. One suffered head injuries and was taken to the hospital.

Racism is nothing new in the United States, but the recent coronavirus pandemic has amplified the problem. Anti-Asian rhetoric from national leaders, such as former president Donald Trump, has seemingly placed the blame for the pandemic not only on China, but on Asian-American citizens living in the United States. Language such as "China virus" and "kung flu" promotes not only discriminatory behavior, but xenophobia and hate speech. It perpetuates negative stereotypes and the



#StopAsianHate is trending as a response to the out cry for the AAPI community.

erroneous notion that Asians are responsible for the coronavirus pandemic.

Racism and hate speech are most prominent in large areas with dense populations like New York City. From January 1 to April 4 of this year, 80 hate crimes against Asians were reported—more than double the amount over all of 2020. In addition to the recorded incidents, there are likely dozens more unreported occurrences. The city has responded by creating the Asian Hate Crime Task Force, involving detectives of Asian descent posing as plainclothesmen to attempt to prevent similar incidents.

With rampant Asian hate resulting in many incidents of harassment and even murder, a trio of Asian-American activists were not content with the government response. Cynthia Choi, Russell Jeung,

and Manjusha Kulkarni are the founders of Stop AAPI (Asian-American and Pacific Islander) Hate, an organization that tracks incidents of violence or hostility against Asians. Stop AAPI Hate has become a popular hashtag and symbol of the movement—a rallying cry for unity and resilience against racism.

Rallies and vigils have been held around the country in support of Asian-Americans throughout the country, both in remembrance of those who have already been victims and in support of new legislation to combat this issue. All over the nation, new laws have been passed to more easily classify violence and harassment toward Asians as hate crimes and create task forces in major cities to instill a safer environment for citizens and bring criminals and bigots to justice. Cities have also in-

roduced hotlines to better track crime and give a feeling of support to communities.

Despite a national awareness campaign, crimes against Asian-Americans are rising by the month along with prejudiced feelings and negative stereotypes. As the nation works to end the spread of COVID-19, it is equally important that it works to end the harmful stigma toward Asian-Americans, remembering that the United States is one unified country that gains value not only from its similarities but its differences as well.



The Death of Journalism



By Joaquin Torre ('21)
EDITOR

In the wake of new technological forms of communication and expression, reading a newspaper has become a thing of the past. To prove my point, I can assure you that 90% of those who are holding this paper will merely skim through this article and look at the neat picture taken by yours truly. Now, you may be thinking that journalism isn't dying but rather growing, but this misplaced sense of progress comes from the fact that traditional journalism is a dying breed and is no longer the medium for getting news.

As the popularity of the more lucrative online journalism increases, physical newspapers struggle to stay afloat. Local newspapers are being hit especially hard, as they are being dominated by both online news and national newspapers and large conglomerates, such as Torstar, which owns the Toronto Star and many other newspapers, and the Los Angeles Times, whose holdings include the San Diego Union-Tribune. The Washington Post frames the loss of these newspapers as the nation losing its mirror, never to see an honest reflection of itself again.

The effects of the loss of print journalism could be disastrous. Thomas Jefferson said that newspapers were all that stood between the nation and revolution, saying "This formidable censor of the public functionaries, by arraigning them at the tribunal of public opinion, produces reform peaceably, which must otherwise be done by revolution." If the spread of mass misinformation online continues, he may well

be proven right.

In a historic year full of trying dilemmas and conflicts, you have been hearing news left and right which is no longer coming from a traditional journalist writing for their news organization, but rather from a social media post popping up on your phone, telling you what you "need" to know. Even if the social media post were sourced from a bona fide news organization, chances are, most people would be too lazy and impatient to read the full article, instead of contenting themselves with the headline itself, which often doesn't tell you much, or worse, is misleading.

Or maybe you don't get your news from your phone, but rather from your TV or radio. There you are able to have someone spoon-feed you the news, telling you what you should believe as you're sinking into your couch at home. That big headline at the bottom of the screen will tell you all you need to know.

Chances are, you have not picked up a physical newspaper in a while (and no, *The Augustinian* doesn't count). The beauty of physical papers is that they force you to slow down and read the stories. Meanwhile, online articles are rife with distractions on their pages: videos, ads, and hyperlinks. Online articles aren't really read, anyway—they are simply scrolled through.

Now, the art of journalism—in both their online and print forms—is slowly being replaced by mini-televisions in our pockets and on our wrists that spurt out "news" at random moments. "News" whose truth is in the mind of the beholder.

SEE JOURNALISM, pg. 11



Faith in the Lamborghini Appearance



By Mr. Vladimir Bachynsky
MODERATOR

No one believed me when I said I'd be pulling up to Saints in a Lamborghini. Weeks ahead of time, I told most of my students the exact date and time of my glorious arrival. I figured word of mouth would take care of the rest and the whole school would greet me in what was to be the hottest set of wheels ever to pull up beneath the school arches in the history of Saints. Tesla? Porsche? Maserati? Yawn.

There was word of mouth all right, but not the sort I was expecting. Students ribbed me for a couple of weeks in that taunting voice people do, even students I didn't know. "So, Mr. B...how's your Laaaaambo?"

Let me answer that. It. Is. Sick. The beast is a 2008 Lamborghini Gallardo Superleggera with a V10 engine producing 520 hp, propelling it from 0-60 in 3.5 seconds. Only 172 were manufactured for the US market. Totally lambolicious.

As I vroomed-vroomed my way to Saints that Thursday morning in March on the Feast of the Annunciation, I could feel my heart pumping the entire ride. After all, most owners don't even drive their Lambo all that often. But what a thrill it is when you do. As you're cruising along and suddenly punch down on the gas, the G-force flattens you against the seat providing an inexpensive face lift.

Of course, no one was laughing anymore as I rode to and fro on Nutmeg Street. Seeing is believing, I guess. One student in particular, Nicolas Zarur ('24)—who mocked my announcement in the past—positively gaped. I could tell even through his mask.

Nico reminded me of doubting Thom-



Mr. Bachynsky reminds Saintsmen to drive slowly in North Park.

as in John's gospel. "Unless I see...I will not believe!" (Jn. 20:25) There were other Thomases, too, who upon seeing me in the car believed, too, and like the Apostles, told others, who either believed or didn't based on the eyewitness testimony.

You've gotta have faith, brothas. After all, as the risen Lord said, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed!" (Jn. 20:29)

Nonbelievers can't be blamed, though. Even used, a Lamborghini like that is worth close to \$200,000. How could Mr. Bachynsky afford it?

Easy: I can't, because it isn't mine. I spotted the hotrod in the garage of my son's godfather, John McGee. The car belonged to his brother-in-law who tragically passed away, and his sister asked John to fix it up so they could get it on the market.

I casually remarked that if I pulled up at Saints in a Lambo, the students would talk about it for a year. He said, "Let's do it!"

On the chosen day, we met a few blocks from McKinley Elementary where he showed me the controls, drove me around (briefly giving me the G-force face lift), then we switched, and I drove the black beauty. We returned to where my car was parked and John followed me to Saints in my Mazda 3.

Fifteen minutes later I was in my classroom for block one, and it already seemed like the whole school learned of my majestic arrival in the smokin' Italian chariot.

Pretending the car was mine was done in the spirit of fun and intrigue. It certainly gave Saintsmen something to talk about. It also gave me something to talk about in my religion classes. With my freshmen, I

compared my appearance in the Lambo to Jesus' appearance after the Resurrection. When students told others what they saw, did they believe them? Why or why not? Is seeing really believing, anyway? Is it really an exercise in faith if you believe only after you see? Or does that defy the very definition of faith itself?

It also gave me fodder with the juniors. Oddly enough, we were talking about wealth, money, and generosity that day—how Christians are called to shun materialism and be generous toward the poor.

Personally, I wouldn't even want to own a Lamborghini. I would feel guilty having something so expensive, flashy, and ultimately unnecessary in light of being surrounded by so many people in need. Cars are seldom a good investment, anyway.

So yeah, I fibbed, but it was for laughs and to create good memories. It was like the Santa Claus tale: it was fun while you believed it, wondrous while you pondered its veracity, and in the end, you learned the truth. (But did you notice that your parents never pulled you aside and said, "Hey, by the way...all that Jesus stuff we told you isn't real. Don't tell your younger brother!") That's because the story of Jesus is actually true. Fun fact!

Now that the show is truly over, I must face that fact that I'll likely never drive a Lamborghini again. However, I'll never forget the experience of driving the ultimate sports car to Saints. It sure was fun taking you all for a ride, too.

(Oh, and by the way, just kidding: Santa is real!)



Drummy Masters Her Craft



By Riley Scanlan ('23)
STAFF WRITER

As students at St. Augustine High School push themselves to be the best, so do their teachers. Mrs. Drummy recently completed her Master of Fine Arts Degree from San Diego State University. Her early years were influenced by her family's strong Catholic educational background. Her grandfather and father were both graduates of St. Augustine High School, and their legacy paved a path for her to attend and graduate from Our Lady of Peace High School.

Mrs. Drummy has been an art teacher at Saints for seven years. Although teaching was not her first career choice, she knew she wanted to do something to build upon her love of art. She found an opportunity to teach young students how to draw through an afterschool program, which encouraged her to pursue a teaching career. Her Catholic background and the legacy of her grandfather and father made it a natural fit for her to begin working at Saints. In her early years at Saints, she helped coach the basketball team. More recently, she has focused her extracurricular activities on the Art Club. Working at Saints has helped her to fulfill the requirements necessary to prove she was capable of carrying out projects which measure up to graduate standards. This allowed her to apply and be accepted to the graduate program at San Diego State University.

Mrs. Drummy shared that the Master's Degree program was quite different from her undergraduate studies. She managed to work full time while attending the graduate program and was the only student in her classes to do so. This was no easy task, but with the help of the Saints administration accommodating her rigorous schedule, she was able to achieve her goal of completing



Refuge III, Colored Pencil on Paper 22" x 30" 2019

Refuge III is one of Mrs. Drummy's pieces from her MFA program.

michelledrummy.com

her degree in painting with a printmaking emphasis.

As a recent graduate, Mrs. Drummy stated that her Master's Degree has already improved her teaching skills and her personal art skills. Her enhanced knowledge has also benefited her students, especially those in her AP classes, in better understanding the meaning of their art. Her studies have also helped to improve her style and techniques in her own work. By simultaneously developing her artistic talents and her knack for teaching, Mrs. Drummy has made yet another investment in not only her own future but the futures of her students.

When asked if she had any advice to

share with students considering a teaching career, Mrs. Drummy gave a simple reply: Be passionate about the subject you teach.

"Passion helps to make a better teacher, which, in turn, will help keep students interested in what they are learning," Mrs. Drummy said. "This creates a feedback loop where a teacher can energize the student which motivates the teacher as a result."

It is evident that Mrs. Drummy has dedicated a lot of time and hard work to completing her Master of Fine Arts Degree. All of her current and future students will benefit from her success, and the school community congratulates Mrs. Drummy on such a wonderful achievement.

Chaplain's Corner



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

Many said it could not be done! Yet here we are, at the conclusion of another school year—by far the strangest and most peculiar that Saints has ever had. Cohorts, masks, Zoom, social distancing, vaccines—we have seen it all!

The key for us as we move forward now, is to leave these things in the past. We have beaten the pandemic. We bent the curve to stay below the capacity of our hospital system. We have vaccinated those at risk due to the virus. We have followed often confusing rules set by unelected bureaucrats who then flouted them in private. As good citizens, we obeyed "The Science" even when it was not supported by science. We did our part. Now it is time to say thank you, and move on.

Back to smiles, back to hugs, back to seeing our fellow neighbors as brothers and sisters rather than potential disease vectors. Saints was able to witness to the world what being face to face and heart to heart is truly all about. We are the tip of the spear flying into the future of a post-pandemic world.

Saintsmen, have a wonderful and fun-filled summer. You have earned it. See you in the fall.





**Help your child excel in the fall
by catching up on math this summer.**

Summer is the ideal time to do something that will give your child a huge advantage when school resumes in the fall: Accelerate their math skills with Mathnasium.

Mathnasium's personalized Learning Plans are proven to improve grades and help kids catch up and get ahead in math. With live face-to-face instruction, either in-center or online.

And don't worry — your child will still enjoy their summer. Because we make learning math fun.



Ask about our summer offer.

Mathnasium of Mission Gorge
(619) 281-MATH (6284)
mathnasium.com/missiongorge/summer
10330 Friars Rd. #109, San Diego, CA 92120

Changing Lives Through Math™

MATHNASIUM®
The Math Learning Center

An Editorial Farewell



Joaquin Torre, Angel Perez, and Manny Butler gather for distribution of issue 3 of *The Augustinian*.

Courtesy of ASB



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

As Saintsmen approach our great campus on their very first day of high school, the mad dash for familiar places is taking place under the surface. With darting eyes and invigorated excitement for the next four years, these rats are looking for comfort in the strange and unfamiliar environment. In my own experience, I found this solace from a previous graduate of my middle school, St. Vincent de Paul School, who graduated from Saints in 2019. Liam Brucker-Casey, whom I had only spoken to a few times before high school, was the welcoming smile that I found in my own

search to find a home at Saints.

Without a clue as to how I would navigate high school, joining clubs and student organizations was not yet at the forefront of my mind. However, after a few weeks of school, Liam's prods to attend a meeting for *The Augustinian* finally wore me down. During the meeting, my obsession with this publication began, and, luckily for Mr. Bachynsky, it has never stopped.

Rather than taking this space to persuade future generations to drop everything and join the team, I feel compelled to speak of the way *The Augustinian* is interwoven with the lessons I have learned during the last four years. With every interview, I developed confidence in my speaking abilities. With every article, I realized

the importance of understanding the facts and considering all perspectives on a subject. Most memorably, every late night and every hiccup in publication taught me to rely on others and to think critically about problems I may face.

Regardless of our joint membership of the editorial staff, the current seniors working behind the scenes have had a close bond since we first dawned the classic beanies. Kai da Luz, Joseph Selfani, Graeme Morland-Tellez, and Joaquin Torre have been the most amazing and helpful group of individuals I could ask for. Whether we were ranting about the latest test, dreaming of our college days, or, in some rare cases, editing the newspaper, our ability to communicate effectively was rooted in the

common goal of elevating each other and ourselves.

If you have personal experiences with any of these Saintsmen, it should not come as a surprise that their utter brilliance has pushed me to become the best version of myself. While it likely has no scientific basis, I was once taught that we are the amalgamation of the five individuals with whom we spend the most time. If this has any basis in fact, I am blessed to have these geniuses in my inner circle. Had it not been for our joint goal of producing the perfect paper, we may not have developed this indestructible bond.

Of course, this goodbye would be incomplete without my tremendous thanks to our teacher moderator, Mr. Bachynsky. For years, Mr. B has been one of my greatest mentors, and his passion for truth and transparency in reporting has rooted itself deep within me. While I never had the privilege of taking his class, our endless conversations were highly educational, and the lessons I have learned from him will remain with me for years to come.

To put it simply, *The Augustinian* community has become like a family to me during my time at Saints. With college on the horizon, I am looking forward to finding my next community of writers and creatives, but the atmosphere we have come together to build will stay with us as we begin the next chapter of our lives as journalists, as Saintsmen, and as lifelong friends.



St. Augustine High School

An Open Letter from President Selfani



By Joseph Selfani ('21)
EDITOR

Originally, I actually had no plans to come to St. Augustine High School. When I was in eighth grade, my parents would encourage me to consider Francis Parker, as it ranked very highly in academics (just take a look at niche.com) and many students that they knew at Francis Parker went on to the Ivy Leagues.

Taking my parents' advice, I decided to apply to Francis Parker in September of my 8th-grade year. I was highly impressed with the professional and strategic way they handled me, as once I applied, they asked to interview me one-on-one that October. During the interview, an administrator at Francis Parker would ask questions about my background, my interests, and ask me some hypothetical questions. Afterward, the interviewer took all the information she got from me and had me shadow a Francis Parker student who also went to a Catholic school, who is also interested in robotics, and who answered those questions in a similar manner as me. When I shadowed, I was blown away by the campus. They had an insane Robotics Lab sponsored by Qualcomm and other big companies, and their cafeteria was free for all students. I was shocked when the student I was shadowing just walked into essentially a big Marty's and just grabbed a sandwich off the shelf and gave it to me. I was overall impressed with the school and thought... this is going to be it for me.

On March 6, the decisions were released from Francis Parker. I was denied,



President Selfani enjoyed taking part in the many festivities for which Saints is known. Courtesy of ASB

and I felt heartbroken. With no other option, I ended up going to that fraternity known as Saints.

You know the rest of the story. I came to Saints enjoying every single bit of it — from the amazing students to the lively teachers, the fun events and rallies, and the numerous opportunities available at Saints through clubs and leadership to get involved. I assimilated quickly my freshman year to the Brotherhood and learned that academics, while important, is not everything. Staying active with sports, sharing and learning new skills through clubs, and gaining leadership experience through ASB are equally important aspects

of a student to experience what life is like. I thank God every day that I was denied from Francis Parker, as I cannot imagine being anywhere else than Saints. I would not give this phenomenal experience up for anything that Francis Parker could have offered me.

Rejection is not an end, but a beginning. There will be countless times in life where rejection may occur, whether it is from a dream school or a job opportunity or even getting friend-zoned. I know many seniors, including myself, got denied from their dream colleges or even their dream jobs. Rejection is hard, but understand that when God closes the door to one opportu-

nity, He always opens the door to another. The job now falls on us to seize the moment and take the new opportunities given to us. In my case, I was rejected by Francis Parker, but that opened the opportunity for me to walk into Saints and make the most that it has to offer. And I don't regret a thing.

I seriously appreciate every student at Saints for always being positive, treating others with kindness, and keeping the Brotherhood bond strong. I can't thank the teachers enough as well. All of them are not afraid to express their unique personalities and make the environment at Saints as great as it is. Every day I walk on campus, I appreciate people greeting each other, cracking jokes, and just making the vibe at Saints positive. Whenever I have a bad day, you guys are always there to support me. I appreciate the administrators as well for fighting to keep Saints in-person and for keeping our school up and running.

My farewell to you is to take the amazing opportunities that come your way at Saints, whether it is participating in a club you like or rising up to a leadership position at ASB. Understand that you can work your butt off and still experience rejection, but never be discouraged from rejection. Instead, look to the other open doors waiting for you to walk through and experience something new. It doesn't matter where you go, but what you make of it.

I love all of you, and I will seriously miss you guys. Thank you for an amazing four years.

► **SPORTS**

Continued from Page 1

cord heading into the playoffs. The playoff seeding produced a controversial decision that is questionable at best as Saints was seeded #2 in the Open Division, behind Cathedral. While Cathedral won the season series with a win over Saints and a draw, their league record and overall record are worse than that of Saints, which was only blemished by those two games. Cathedral dropped games to Point Loma, University City, San Diego, and drew another game with Torrey Pines, causing many to question whether or not they deserved the top seed.

Not all of the spring and winter sports dominated from the start though, as the basketball team had a shaky start to their season, with losses to Patrick Henry and Santa Fe Christian in their first three games. Since then, they have been red hot, with double digit victories over San Diego High, Mission Bay, La Costa Canyon, and Carlsbad. They are 7-2, led by strong senior leadership in Isaiah Brickner, the team also starts 4 underclassmen, including sophomore shooting guard Jurian Dixon and freshman point guard Lolo Rudolph.

The Saints basketball team continued their success on Friday, May 7th, beating the rival Cathedral Catholic Dons at home. A win over the Dons puts them on pace to win the Western League barring any unexpected losses.

Lacrosse has also struggled this season, as they have a 5-9 record despite star play from All-American Cooper Lance, who leads the team with 37 goals this season. Their high division guaranteed them a playoff spot this year, so they met Torrey Pines in a playoff tilt.

The tennis team found itself in an interesting situation this year, teaming up with OLP to form a coed team as CIF declared that boys and girls tennis, which usually compete separately, should be done together this year due to COVID. That did not stop them from rocketing to a record of 11-3 and the top Division 1 seed.

Behind strong play from freshman Mario Garcia and senior Noah Zamora, the team provided such highlights as their first victory over La Jolla High in over a decade as well as stomping Patrick Henry by a score of 15-2.

The team then rolled through the playoffs as well, defeating Cathedral Catholic in the semifinals for the second time this season and then squeaking past San Dieguito Academy by a score of 9-8 in the final to bring home a CIF championship.

All in all, the success experienced by the Saints in the super season shows our athletes' dedication to their craft, and many teams look to continue their seasons as long as possible with deep playoff runs.

► **ESPORTS**

Continued from Page 1

Catholic schools in Fortnite 1v1s, 2v2s, and Rocket League 3v3s. In the future, the eSports Club hopes to host intramural tournaments for students to enjoy and compete. By adding a new dimension to the remarkable extracurriculars for which Saints is known, the new eSports lab will provide the forum for Saintsmen to develop their skills in hopes of progressing to the collegiate level.

► **CLASSES**

Continued from Page 5

suing a more rigorous addition to their schedule.

These classes help to enrich students' experiences at Saint Augustine High School by allowing them to foster a fondness for the arts, and granting them the opportunity to create something that they can be proud of, whether it is a school yearbook or an original jazz composition.

Senior Superlatives

As the class of 2021 prepares for the highly anticipated graduation season, it is important that we recognize each other's individual strengths and the role they have played in our community across their high school career. While it may seem daunting to move into the next phase of our lives without a look at our futures, *The Augustinian* hopes to recognize members of the graduating class for standing out in a particular area as reported by their peers. We congratulate the following Saintsmen for serving as representations of intellect, creativity, and other forms of growth across the past four years.

- Most likely to become a comedian... Joaquin Torre
- Most likely to make history... Kai da Luz
- Most likely to return to Saints as a teacher... Ryan Melcher
- Most likely to become a professional athlete... Malcolm Williams
- Best dressed... Matthew Cross
- Most likely to be a billionaire... Joseph Selfani
- Most likely to take over the world... Joseph Selfani
- Most likely to be in a show/movie... JD Delacruz & Jakob Tatoy
- Most changed since freshman year... Luke Hobrock
- Most creative... Noah Munoz

BECOME A PART OF THE AUGUSTINIAN

Whether you are a talented writer, photographer, or comic book artist, we are always looking for new members (especially freshmen). Meetings are every Tuesday at lunch in room 318 and our email is saintsnewspaper@gmail.com.

Through these brand new classes, Saintsmen will be challenged to expand their perceptions of the human experience intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. Saintsmen will have the opportunities to cultivate an attitude of appreciation, sensitivity, and responsiveness to that which they find beautiful in the arts.

► **JOURNALISM**

Continued from Page 7

"News" is ripe for manipulation, soaked with opinion, and often downright fake. Sensationalism is a big business, with big money to be made: just click on the bait, and be exposed to more and more ads. Truth, on the other hand, is a luxury the modern news machine cannot afford.



Saints Scholar Honorees

National Merit Scholar:
Semi finalist:



Kyle Wesseln

National Merit Scholar:
Commended Scholar:



Jakob Tatoy

College Board National Recognition Program Honorees:



Nathan Audis



Luis Lavat



Graeme Morland-Telez



Angel Perez

End of Era: A Letter to Dr. Graeme

By Graeme Morland-Tellez ('21)
EDITOR

Dr. Graeme,

Is This It? (shoutout to The Strokes)

Saintsmen

Dearest Saintsmen,

This is it. If you have made it this far in my little series, I seriously do applaud you. Although I am glad that I have been able to occasionally keep you all engaged with my advice articles, I really do hope that none of you have acted upon my past advice. If you already have done such a travesty, I am sure you have become quite familiar with both the many appalled looks of disgust and the spicy aroma of pepper spray. Well, you know what they say about what doesn't kill you, right? Anyways, to the few individuals who actually take time to read my articles, I hope you enjoy what I have for you all today. I am going to step back from my common theme of terrible advice-giving, and I am going to spend my final "Dr. Graeme" article giving legitimately decent advice, or at least I will try.

I am not entirely sure how to go about this, but oh well. Just be aware that I am writing this article in the midst of a very serious case of senioritis. I am sure that many of my teachers have noticed my somewhat different behavior deviant from my normal conduct. I want to start this piece thanking the loyal diehard followers out there of *The Augustinian*. You know what they say: 'The Few, The Proud.' In all seriousness, I appreciate you all for reading the paper as a whole over the past years. A lot of individuals do not understand how much work is put into producing this paper, and many others are "too cool" to read a school newspaper and just toss them aside. I suppose my first piece of advice is to actually read the paper, as you might learn a thing or



Dr. Graeme poses with fellow Saintsmen as they prepare to say goodbye to Saints.

Nicholas Sajor ('21)

two, crack a laugh, or find out that you may want to join the writing and editorial staff.

Well, that is about it for my true advice. If you go through Saints and legitimately do nothing except read the periodical issues of *The Augustinian*, you will leave a changed man-- one that is marked by confidence, defined by intelligence, and possibly haunted by a few failing grades. Saints has never had a fifth-year senior, how would YOU like to make history? In all seriousness, I really do encourage you all to leave your individual mark on the Saints campus. However, do not misconstrue my advice as means to either lead a life of infamy or resort to a more crude and traditional form of "leaving your mark," as seen with many different types of animals.

Personally, I like to think that I have made somewhat of a small microscopic dent on the hardened titanium shield that is this

school. If even that is not true, I at least hope that I have impacted the lives of both those who have taught me and those who have learned alongside me. In all honesty, please allow me to detail the small impacts that I like to believe collectively contribute to my "microscopic dent." First and foremost, I have never received a single disciplinary infraction. I have never received a dress code, detention, or referral. I think it is only right that Saints creates an award called the "Graeme Morland-Tellez Goody Two Shoes Award." However, if that is too much, I would gladly settle for the "Graeme Morland-Tellez Model for Success Award." Your choice, Saints administration. In complete honesty, one of the highest pinnacles of my Saints career is the time that I have spent as the Managing Editor of this school newspaper. I like to think that my tenure as an editor is somewhat similar to a twisted

version of Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory. Instead of Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka, I have Mr. Bachynsky, and, instead of a magical factory that deals with candies and sweets, I have our lovely Gulags, intense periods of editing in which I am locked in a room with Kai da Luz for hours on end.

As for the initial question, this is it. In ending my final article for this paper and simultaneously closing out my time at Saints, I truly do hope that my contributions to this paper have been appreciated just as much as I appreciate those who have supported both my articles and my own Saints journey. Generally, most sappy individuals attempt to retain emotional sanctity and profess that a clear and utter goodbye is "not a true goodbye." Screw that. Goodbye. Dr. Graeme has officially signed off.

2021-2022 Editorial Staff

Manny Butler
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Patrick O'Leary
MANAGING EDITOR

Aidan Rickwa
EDITOR

Mr. Vladimir Bachynsky
MODERATOR

Nick Luzi
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ty Woods
EDITOR

Griffin Cappiello
EDITOR

Cutting the COVID Tape: The Return to Play

by Hudson Daley

